

THE PLEASANT  
**HISTORY**

OF

John Winchcomb,

IN

His younger yeares called JACK  
of *Newbery*,

The famous and worthy Clothier of  
England; declaring his life and loue,  
together with his charitable deedes  
and great Hospitality.

And how he fed continually five hundred poore  
people at worke, to the great benefite of  
the Common-wealth.

The eleuenth Edition, corrected and enlarged  
by T. D.

*Hande cure in iudicium.*

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# To all famous Cloth

Workers in England, I wish all  
happinesse of life, prosperity and  
*brotherly affection.*



Mong all manuell Arts  
vsed in this Land, none  
is more famous for de-  
sert, or more beneficiall  
to the Cōmon-wealth,  
than is the most necessa-  
ry Art of Clothing. And  
therefore as the benefite  
there of is great, so are the professors of the  
same to be both loued and maintained. Ma-  
ny wise men therefore, hauing deeply con-  
sider the same, most bountifully haue be-  
stowed their gifts for vpholding of so excel-  
lent a commodity, which hath been, and yet  
is, the nourishing of many thousands of poor  
people. Wherefore to you, most worthy  
Clothiers, do I dedicate this my rude worke,  
which hath raised out of the dust of forget-

### *The Epistle to the Clothiers.*

fulnesse a most famous and worthy man, whose name was *Iohn Winchcombe*, alias *Iack* of *Newbery*, of whose life and loue I haue briefely written, and in a plaine and humble manner, that it may be the better vnderstood of those for whose sake I took pains to compile it, that is, for the well minded Clothiers, that herein they may behold the great worship and credit which men of this trade haue in former time come vnto. If therefore it be of you kindly accepted, I haue the end of my desire, and think my paines well recompenced: and finding your gentlenesse answering my hope, it shall moue me shortly to set to your sight the long hidden History of *Thomas* of *Redding*, *George* of *Glocester*, *Richard* of *Worcester*, and *William* of *Salisbury*, with diuers others; who were all most notable members in the Common-wealth of this land, and men of great fame and dignity. In the meane space, I commend you all to the most high God, who euer increase, in all perfection & prosperous estate, the long honoured trade of English-Clothiers.

*Yours in all humble service,*

T.D.





THE MOST PLEA-  
fant and delectable Historie of Iohn  
Winchcombe, otherwise called *Iacke of  
Newbery*: and first of his loue and  
*pleasant life.*

CHAP. I.

**I**n the daies of King Henrie the eighth  
that most noble and victorious Prince  
in the beginning of his reigne, Iohn  
Winchcomb, a broad cloth Weauer,  
dwelt in Newberie, a towne in Bark-  
shire: who so; that he was a man of a  
merry disposition, & honest conversa-  
tion, was wondrous wel-beloued of  
Rich and Poore, especially, because in every place where  
hee came, hee would spend his money with the best, and  
was not at any time found a churle of his purse. Wherefore  
being so good a companion, hee was called of old and yongue  
Iacke of Newberie: a man so generally well knotone in  
all his countrey for his good fellowship, that hee could  
goe in no place but he found many acquaintance; by meanes  
whereof, Iacke could no sooner get a Crostone, but straight  
hee found meanes to spend it: yet had hee euer this care, that  
hee would alwaies keepe himselfe in comely and decent ap-  
parell: neyther at any time would hee bee overcome in  
drinke, but so discreetly behane himselfe with honest mirth,  
and pleasant conceits, that he was every Gentlemans com-  
panion.

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After that Iack had long led this pleasant life, being (though he were but poore) in good estimation: it was his Masters chance to dye, and his Dame to be a widow, who was a very comely ancient woman, and of reasonable wealth. Wherefore she hauing a good opinion of her man Iohn, committed vnto his gouernement the guiding of all her work-folkes for the space of thre yeares together: In which time she found him so carefull and diligent, that all things came forwarde and prospered wondrous well. No man could entice him from his businesse all the weeke, by all the intreaty they could vse: Insomuch that in the end some of the wild youths in the towne began to deride and scoffe at him.

Doubtlesse, quoth one, I thinke some female spirit hath enchanted Iacke to his treables, and cōtured him within the compasse of his Lome, that he can stirre no further. You say true, quoth Iacke, and if you haue the leasure to stay till the Charme be done, the space of five dayes and five nights, you shall finde me ready to put on my holy-day-apparell, and on Sunday morning for your paines I will giue you a pot of Ale ouer against the May-pole. Nay, quoth another, He lay my life, that as the Salamander cannot liue without the fire, so Iack cannot liue without the smel of his Dames smock. And I maruell quoth Iacke, that you being of the nature of a Herring (which so soone as he is taken out of the Sea, presently dyes) can liue so long with your nose out of the pot. Nay Iacke leaue thy teasing, quoth another, and go along with vs, thou shalt not stay a lot. And because I will not stay, nor make you a lyer (quoth Iacke) He keepe me here still: and so farewell.

Thus then they departed: and after they had for halfe a score times tried him to this intent, and saw he would not be ledde by their lure, they left him to his owne will. Perceiueslesse, every Sunday in the afternone, and every Holy-day, Iacke would keepe them company, and be as merry as a Pye, and hauing still good store of money in his purse, one or other would euer be borrowiug of him, but neuer could he get penny of it againe: which when Iacke perceiued, he would neuer after

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after carry about twelue pence at once in his purse: and that being spent, he would straight returne home merrily, taking his leaue of the company in this sort.

My masters, I thanke you, its time to packe home,  
For he that wants money is counted a mome:  
And twelue pence a Sunday being spent in good cheare,  
To fifty two shillings amounts in the yeare;  
Enough for a Crafts-man that liues by his hands:  
And he that exceeds it, shall purchase no lands.  
For that I spend this day, Ile worke hard to morrow,  
For woe is that partie that seeketh to borrow.  
My money doth make me full merry to be;  
And without my money none careth for me:  
Therefore wanting money, what should I doe heere,  
But hast home, and thanke you for all my good cheere?

Thus was lackes good gouernement and discretiō noted of the best and substantiallest men of the Towne: so that it wrought his great commendations, and his Dame thought her selfe not a little blest to haue such a seruant, that was so obedient vnto her, and so carefull for her profite: for she had neuer a Wrentise that yalded her more obedience than he did, nor was more dutifull: so that by his good example, hee did as much good as by his diligent labour and painfull trauel: which his singular vertue being noted by the widow, shee beganne to cast a very good countenance to her man Iohn, and to vse very much talk with him in private: and first by way of communication, she would tell vnto him what suiters she had, as also the great offers they made her, what gifts they sent her, and the great affection they bare her, craving his opinion in the matter.

When lacke found the fauour to be his Dames Secretarie, he thought it an extraordinary kindnesse: and ghesling by the parnet it would proue a good web, beganne to question with his dame in this sort. Although it becommeth not mee your seruant to pry into your secrets, nor to bee buske about  
mate

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matters of your lone : yet so; so much as it hath pleased you to be conference with me in those causes, I pray you let me intreat you to know their names that be your sutoz, and of what profession they be.

Harry Iohn, saith she, that you shall, and I pray the take a cushion and sit downe by me. Dame, quoth he, I thanke you: but there is no reason I should sit on a cushion til I haue deserued it. If thou hast not thou mightest haue done, said she: but some Souldiers neuer finde sauiour. Iohn replied, that maketh me indeed to want sauiour: so; I neuer durst try maydens because they seeme coy, no; wines so; feare of their husbands, no; widowes doubting their dishauntnes. Tush Iohn (quoth she) he that feares and doubts womankinde, cannot be counted mankinde: and take this so; a principle, All things are not as they seeme. But let vs leaue this, and proceed to our former matter. My first suto; dwels at Wallingford, by trade a Tanner, a man of good wealth, and his name is Crafts, of comely personage and very good behauiour, a widower, well thought of among his neighbours: he hath proper land, a faire house well furnished, and neuer a childe in the world, and hee loues me passing well. Why then Dame, quoth Iohn, you were best to haue him. Is that your opinion, quoth she: no; trust me so it is not mine: so; I finde two speciall reasons to the contrary: the one is, that he being overwoyme in yeares, makes me overlothy to lous him: and the other, that I know one nerer hand.

Beloue me Dame (quoth Iack) I perceiue so; is no so;e, & proffered ware is worse by ten in the hundred than that which is sought: but I pray who is your second suto;: Iohn, quoth she, it may seeme trimodestly in me to bewray my louers secrets: yet seeing thy discretion, and being perswaded of thy secrecy, I will shew the: the other is a man of middle yeares, but yet a Batchelo; by occupation a Taylo; and dwelling at Hungerford: by report a very good husband, such a one as hath crownes good so;e, and to me he professes much good will: so; his person, he may please any woman. I dame, quoth Iohn, because he pleaseth you. Not so, said she, so; my eyes are vnpar-

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impartiall Judge in that case: are all my opinion may be  
 contrary to mine, if his selfe be not so. Right, he is  
 master of a good will, both his disposition and countenance.  
 When thus our Dame (quoth John) for so much as you are  
 without doubt of your selfe that you will prove a good will,  
 and so well perswasive of him, I should thinke you could  
 make no better a choice. I reply John (quoth she) there be al-  
 so some reasons that would cause me to like of him: the one,  
 that being so long a stranger, he seems at home be a stranger: and the other,  
 that I like better of one nearer hand. Will she  
 that, quoth lacke? with her the same interests the Master of  
 Spinhorn-land, and such a proper living, he is of holy con-  
 sideration and good estimation, whose attention to me is great.  
 So saith I Dame (quoth John) you may see monstrous well  
 to my selfe, where you shall have no care but to leave it to  
 me to make ready assistance. I John (quoth she) the selfe  
 and the spirit agree not: for he will be to him to his house,  
 that he will have little witness of his love: for we have the dis-  
 position for a stranger, but will he forget his wife a whole  
 year. I reply Dame (quoth John) I would rather break in his  
 behalfs, and the rather, for that he is a man of the Church, and  
 your more neighbor, to whom as I quoth, you bear the best  
 affection: I can not thinke that he will be so much bound to  
 his house, or linked to the spirit, but that he will remember a  
 moment of home at abroad. Will John (quoth she) I like my  
 wende is not that leap: for I like better of one nearer hand.  
 So saith I (quoth lacke) you are so overcome, being you  
 have so much chosen: but I may as well (quoth he) let me  
 know the fortunate man that is so highly placed in your fa-  
 vour: John (quoth she) they are worthy to know nothing,  
 that cannot know something: that man (I tell the) must you  
 name: he: for he is a son of my love and king of my desires:  
 there is neither Farmer, Taylor, nor Barber nor chapsare  
 with him, his presence is a prelection to my health, his  
 sweete smiles my hearts solace, and his words heavenly man-  
 ners to my eares. When thus Dame (quoth John) for your  
 ladies beauty, your hearts joy, and your eares delight, being

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not the time, but entertaine him with a kisse, make his bed  
next yours, and chuse up the match in the morning. Well,  
quoth she, I perceiue thy content is quickly got to my, ha-  
ving no care how I am matcht to I be matcht: I wis, I wis  
I could not let this goe so lightly, being sure that any one  
should haue the, except I could loose her as well as my selfe.  
I thanke you for your kindnesse and good will, good Dame,  
quoth he, but it is not welcome for a pangsue man that can  
scarcely keepe himselfe, to take a wife: therefore I hold it the  
best way to lead a single life: for I haue heard say, that ma-  
ny foules follow marriage, especially where is not re-  
medie: and beside, it is a hard matter to finde a constant wo-  
man: for as pangsue ladies are fickle, so are old women ita-  
lous: the one a griefe to common, the other a torment to the  
ladies. What Iohn (quoth she) canst thou say that in this kinde  
necessitie proceeds of diuine fancies, but old womens jealousy of  
superabounding love: and therefore the more to be done  
withall. But Dame, quoth he, many are italous without  
cause: for is it sufficient for their enuious nature to take  
exceptions at a shadow, at a word, at a look, at a smile, nay  
at the twinkle of an eye, which neither man nor woman is  
able to repell: I know a woman that was ready to hang her  
selfe: for seeing but her husband that hang on a hedge  
with her maides smock, I grant that this may haue  
some, quoth she, yet there be many other that complaine  
without great cause. Why, is there any cause that should  
more tealeuse quoth Iohn? I by so Mary is there, quoth she:  
for would it not grieue a woman (being one euerie way able  
to delight her husband) to see him forsake her, despoile and con-  
temne her, being neuer so merry as when he is in other com-  
pany, sporting abroad from morning till night, from morn-  
ing till night, and when he comes to bed, if he turnes to his wiffe,  
it is in such tealeuse, and mercuriall wifely lamentable, that  
it brings rather sadnesse than any delight: can you then  
blame a woman in this case to be angry and displeased? He  
told you that, among haire beards it is a griefe intolerable:  
for I heard my Goodman say, that the ill-weather of her  
dothe

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lacke sleeping one of the Calves about the rest, and seeing  
 Gracie the shepheards abusing her in admirable sort (sub-  
 verting the law of Nature) could by no means beare that  
 abuse, but watching opportunity for revenge, on a time found  
 the said shepheards sleeping in the field, and suddenly came  
 against him in such violent sort, that by the force of his blowes  
 these hories, he beat the braines out of the shepheards head  
 and slew him. If then a shepheards could endure that injury,  
 thinke not that women are so foolish to suffer it. Wellen  
 me (quoth Iohn) if every hore-mother should be so plagued  
 by a horens head, there should be little hories made in New-  
 bery by many in a year. But Blaine (quoth he) to make an  
 end of this pibble, because it is an argument to hope to be  
 bitten the better, you say if you shall have me sing an old  
 song, and in the full report to supper.

A maiden faire I dare not wed,  
 For feare to have a frowne head.  
 A maiden blacke is often proud:  
 A maiden little will be loud.  
 A maiden that is high of growth  
 They say is subiect unto slooth.  
 Thus faire or foule, little or tall,  
 Some faults remaine among them all:  
 But of all the faults that be,  
 None is so bad as iealousie.  
 For iealousie is fierce and fell,  
 And burns as hot as fire in hell:  
 It breeds suspicion without cause,  
 And breaks the bonds of reasons lawes.  
 To none it is a greater foe,  
 Than vnto those where it doth grow.  
 And God keepe me both day and night,  
 From that fell, fond, and ougly spright:  
 For why? of all the plagues that be,  
 The secret plague is iealousie.  
 Therefore I with all women kinde,  
 Neuer to beare a iealous minde.



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Well said Iohn (quoth she) thy song is not so fine, but thy  
voice is as sweete: but seeing the time agrees with our re-  
maches, though loth, yet will we give over for this time, and  
betake our selves to our suppers. Then calling the rest of  
her servants, they fell to their meate merrily, and after sup-  
per, the Goodwife went abroad for her recreation, to walke  
a while with one of her neighbours. And in the meane space  
Iohn got him up into his chamber, and there began to medi-  
tate on this matter, bethinking with himselfe what he were  
best to doe: for well hee perceived that his Dames affection  
was great towards him: knowing therefore the womans  
disposition, and withall, that her estate was reasonable good,  
and considering hee saw, that he should have a house ready fur-  
nished, servants ready taught, and all other things for his  
trade necessary, he thought it best not to let slip that good oc-  
casion, lest he should never come to the like. But againe,  
when hee considered her yeares to be bristling to his youth,  
and that she that sometime had bene his Dame, should (per-  
haps) disdain to bee governed by him that had bin her once  
servant, and that it would prove but a bad bargain, con-  
sidering many inconveniencies that might grow thereof, hee  
therefore resolved to be silent, rather than to proceed further:  
therefore he got him straight to bed, and the next morning  
settled himselfe close to his businesse. His Dame coming  
home, and hearing that her man was gone to bed, toke that  
night but small rest, and early in the morning hearing him  
up at his worke, merrily singing, she by and by arose, and in  
seemely sort attyring herselfe, she came into the washe-shop,  
and late her doome to make quills; quoth Iohn, Good morrow  
Dame, how doe you to day: God a mercy Iohn (quoth she)  
even as well as I may: for I was sore troubled in my  
Dreames. We thought two Doves walked together in a  
corne field, the one (as it were) in communication with the  
other, without regard of picking up any thing to sustaine  
themselves: and after they had with many nods spent some  
time to their content, they both fell hard with their pretty  
bills to pecke up the scattered corne, lest by the weary Rea-  
pers



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pers hand. At length (having themselves satisfied) it chanced  
 another Pigeon to light in that place, with whom one of the  
 first Pigeons at length kept company: and after returning to  
 the place toher: she left her first companion: perceiving he  
 was not there: she kindly searching up and downe the high  
 stubble to finde him, light at length on a Hogge laid asleep,  
 toherewith me thought the poore Dams was to be sold, that  
 presently she fell downe in a trance: I seeing her legges  
 faile, and her wings quicke, saying her selfe to death, mo-  
 ued with pity ranne vnto her, and thinking to take by the  
 Pigeon, me thought, I had in my hand my owne heart,  
 wherein me thought an arrow stucke to deap: that the blood  
 trickled downe the shaft, and lay vpon the feathers like the  
 first pearled dew on the greene grass, which made me to  
 weepe most bitterly. But presently, me thought there came  
 one to me crowned like a Quene, who told me my heart  
 would dye in time, except I got some of that sleeping Hogs  
 grease to heale the woundes thereof. Whereupon I ranne in  
 all hast to the Hog, with my heart bleeding in my hand, who  
 (me thought) would but once in most churlish sort, and ha-  
 night out of my sight. Whereupon coming againe home,  
 me thought, I found this Hog ridding among the Cowes,  
 toherewith I presently awaked, suddenly after midnight,  
 being all in a sweate and very ill: and I am sure you could  
 not chuse but heare me groane. Trust me Dams, I heard  
 you not (quoth Iohn) I was to sleepe all daye. And thus (quoth  
 she) a woman may dye in the night before you will haue the  
 care to see what she adoe, or aske what she lacketh. But tru-  
 ly Iohn (quoth she) all is one: for if thou shouldst haue come,  
 thou couldest not haue got in, because my chamber doo; was  
 locked: but while I live this shall teach me wit: for hence-  
 forth I will haue no other locke but a lacy, till I am mar-  
 ried. Then Dams (quoth she) I perceiue though you be ca-  
 cious in your choyce, yet at length you will marry. I truely  
 (quoth she) so that wilt not hinder me. Who I quoth Iohn  
 on my faith Dams, not for a hundred pounds, but rather  
 will further you to the uttermost of my power. I made  
 (quoth

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(quoth she) thou hast no reason to shew any distrust to me in that matter, although some of our neighbours do not like to say, that I am sure to this already. If it were so (quoth John) there is no cause to deny it, or to be ashamed thereof, knowing my selfe farre unworthy of so high a favour. Well, let this talke rest (quoth she) and take these thy quills, say it is time for me to goe to market.

Thus the matter rested for three or three dayes, in which space she daily desired which way she might obtaine her desire, which was to marry her man. Many things came in her head, and sundry thoughts in her minde, but none of them did hit her fancy: so that she became morbidious sad, and as cruell as the nine Sibbels; and in this melancholy humour continued three weekes or a moneth, till at last it was her lucke upon a Bartholmew day (having a faine in the town) to see her man John give a paire of Gloues to a proper maide for a kissing, which the maide with a bashfull modesty kindly accepted, and requited him with a kiss: which kindles in her an inward feele: but notwithstanding berry offerdly she comforted it, and closely pass away unspied of her man or the maide.

Who had not good cause, but she met with one of her suitors, namely the Taylor, who was very fine and briske in his Apparell, and needed he would bestow the wine upon the Willow: and after some faint deniall, murthering with a Collyer of love to the Camme they went, which was more comely than the Taylor could ever get of her before, shewing her selfe very pleasant and merry; and finding her in such a pleasing humour, the Taylor after a new quart of wine, renewed his old suite: the Willow with patience heard him, and greatly misliked, that in respect of his great good will long time borne to her, as also in regard of his gentleness, cost, and comely at that present bestowed, he would not flatly deny him. Therefore (quoth she) saying this is not come to my pize house on Thursday next, you shall be heartily welcome, and be further satisfied of my minde: and thus

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preferred to a louch of her lips, he payed the host and departed. The Taylor was scant out of sight, when he met with the Tinner: who albeit he was aged, yet lustily he saluted her, and to the wine she must, there was no nay. The Widow seeing his importunacy, calls her Gossip, and along they walked together. The old man called for wine plenty, and the best there in the house: and in an hearty manner he bids the Widow welcome. They had not sitten long, but in comes a ruple of Spinsters in towne coats, who (putting off their caps) asked if they would have any muske. The Widow answered no, they were musty enough. Tat, quoth the old man, let vs heare good fellows what you can doe, and play me The beginning of the World. Alas, quoth the widow, you had more need to hearken to the ending of the world. Why Widow, quoth he, I tell thee the beginning of the world was the begetting of Children: and if you finde me faulty in that occupation, turne me out of thy bed for a bungler, and then send for the Sexton. He had no sooner spoken the word, but the Parson of Speen with his corner cap, popt in at the doore, who seeing the Widow sitting at the table, craved pardon, and came in. Quoth she, say want of the Sexton, here is the Point if you need him. Marry (quoth the Tinner) in good time, for by this meanes we need not goe farre to be married. Sir, quoth the Parson, I shall doe my best in commendment place. Wherein, quoth the Tinner: To wed her my selfe, quoth the Parson. Nay fast, said the Widow, one Shallow makes not a Summer, nor one meeting a marriage: as I lighted on you but of late, so came I hither unprouided for the purpose. I trust, quoth the Tinner, you came not without your eyes to see, your tongue to speake, your eares to heare, your hands to seile, nor your legs to goe. I brought my eyes, quoth she, to discerne colours, my tongue to say so to questions I like not, my hands to thrust from me the things that I loue not, my eares to keepe those flattery & friendship, & my feet to runned such as would wrong me. Why then, quoth the Parson, by your gentle abiding in this place, it is evident that here are none but those you like & loue.

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lone. God forbid I should hate my friends (quoth the widow) whom I take all these in this place to be. But there be diuers sorts of lones, quoth the Parson. You say truth, quoth the Widow: I loue your selfe for your profession, and my friend the Tanner, for his courtesie and kindnesse, and the rest for their good company. Yet (quoth the Parson) for the expounding of your lone, I pray you drinke to them you loue best in the company. Why (quoth the Tanner) haue you any hope in her lone? Welcome me (saith the Parson) as much as another. Why then Parson sit downe, said the Tanner: for you that are equall with me in desire, shall surely be halfe with me in the shotte: and so Widow, on Gods name fulfill the Parsons request. Drinke (quoth the Widow) you are so pleasantly bent, if my courtesie might not breed contention betwene you, and that I may haue your honour to the wining fancy, I will fulfill your request. Quoth the Parson, I am pleased howsoever it be. And I, quoth the Tanner. Why then (quoth he) with this cup of Claret wine and Sugar, I heartily drinke to the Martins boy. Why is it he you loue best, quoth the Parson? I haue reason, said he, to like and loue them best, that will be least offended with my doings. Say, Widow (quoth they) we meane you should drinke to him whom you loued best in the way of marriage. Quoth the Widow, you should haue said so at first: but to tell you my opinion, it is small discretion for a woman to disclose her secret affection in an open assembly: therefore if to that purpose you speake, let me intreat you both to come home to my house on Thursday next, where you shall bee heartily welcome, and there be fully resolved of my minde: and so, with sparkes at this time, he took my lone. The shot being paid, and the Martins pleased, they all departed, the Tanner to Wallingford, the Parson to Speen, and the widow to her own house: where in her wonted solemnnes she settled her selfe to her businesse.

Against Thursday the next her house shone and brane, and set her selfe in her best apparell: The Taylor, nothing forgetting his promise, sent to the Widow a good fat Pigge, and a  
Cwile,

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**Cate.** The Parson being as mindefull as hee, sent to her house a couple of fat Rabbits and a Capon: and the Tanner carrie himselfe, and brought a good shoulder of Mutton, and halfe a dozen Chickens, beside he brought a good gallon of Sacke, and halfe a pound of the best Sugar. The Widow receiuing this good meate, let her maide to dresse it incontinent, and when dinner time was nere, the table was covered, and every other thing provided in conuient and comely sort.

At length the guests being come, the Widow had them all heartily welcome. The Priest and the Tanner seeing the Table, marvelled what he made there: the Taylor on the other side, marvelled as much at their presence. Thus looking strangely one at another, at length the Widow came out of the kitchen, in a faire traine gowne fustian full of silver pinnes, a fine white Cap on her head, with ears of curious needle worke vnder the same, and an Apron before her as white as the women snow: then very modestly making curtisie to them all, she requested them to sit downe. But they straining contended the one with the other, the Widow with a smiling countenance take the Parson by the hand, saying, Sir, as you stand highest in the Church, so it is meete you should sit highest at the Table: and therefore I pray you sit downe there on the bench side. And Sir, said she to the Tanner, as age is to be honoured before youth for their experience, so are they to sit above Bachelers for their gravity: and so she set him downe on this side the Table, over against the Parson. Then coming to the Taylor, she said, Bachelor, though you be the last, your welcome is equall with the first, and seeing your place points out it selfe, I pray you take a cushion and sit downe. And now (quoth she) to make the boyd equall, and because it hath been an old saying, that these things are to small purpose, if the fourth be away: if so it may stand with your laudour, I will call in a Gossip of mine to supply this voyd place. With a good will, quoth they. With that she brought in an old woman with scant ener a good tooth in her head, and placed her right against

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the Butcher. Then was the meate brought to the board in due order by the Widdowes servants, her man John being the first forallo: The Widdow late wont at the tables end, betwene the Parson and the Tanner, who in very good sort earned meate for them all, her man John waiting on the Table.

After they had sitten a while, & well refreshed themselves, the Widdow taking a Chrysstal glasse filled with Claret Wine, drinke unto the whole company, and bade them welcome. The Parson pledged her, and so did all the rest in due order: but still in their drinking, the cup past over the poore old womans nose, insomuch that at length the old woman (in a merry daine) spake thus unto the company: I have had much good meate during you, but as for the drinke I can nothing commend it. Alas, good Goddy (quoth the Widdow) I perceive no man hath drinke to his pot. So truly, quoth the old woman: for Church-men have so much wile of young Rabbits, old men such toy in young Chickens, and Butchers in Pigs flesh take such delight, that an old Dow, a tough Perrie, or a gray Cony are not accepted: and so it is seen by me, else I should have bene better rewarded. Well old woman, quoth the Parson, take here the legge of a Capon to top thy mouth. Gave by S. Anne, I dare not, quoth she so, therefore said the Parson & Warr, for feare lest you should goe home with a crutch, quoth she. The Toller said, then take here a peece of a Guse. Now God forbid, said the old woman, let Guse goe to his kinde: you have a young Ro-mucke, eat it your selfe, and much good may it doe your heart, quoth young man. The old woman lackes most of her teeth, quoth the Tanner: and therefore a peece of a tender Chicke is fittest for her. If I lacke as many of my teeth, quoth the old woman, as you lacke points of good husbandry, I doubt I should starve before it were long. At this the Widdow laugh heartily, and the men were stricken into such a dumsie, that they had not a word to say. Dinner being ended, the Widdow with the rest rose from the table, and after they had sitten a pretty while merrily talking, the Widdow called

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called her man Iohn to bring her a bottle of fresh Ale, which he did. Then said the Widow: No matters, no say your courtesse and cost I heartily thanke you all, and to requittall of all your favour, loue and good will, I drinke to you, giuing you free liberty when you please to depart. At these wordes her sisters looked so soberly one vpon another, as if they had bene no wile champing of Crabbe. Which when the Taylor heard, shaking vp himselfe in his newe russet Jerkin, and setting his hat on one side, he began to speake thus. I trust sweet Widow (quoth he) you remember to what end my coming was hither to day: I haue long time bene a suitor vnto you, and this day you promised to giue me a direct answer. It is true, quoth she, and so I haue: for your loue I giue you thanks, and when you please you may depart. Shall I not haue you, said the Taylor: Alas (quoth the Widow) you come too late. Good friends (quoth the Tanner, it is wondrous for young men to let their clothes be serued before them: to what end should I be here if the Widow should haue thee: a Bat house is made for a fowle suitor: but what saiest thou to me, saie Widow (quoth the Tanner: ) Sir, said she, because you are so sharpe set, I would wish you as soone as you can to be gone. Appoint the time your selfe (quoth the Tanner: ) When as I please (quoth she) as you can get a wife, and hope not after me, for I am already promised. Now Tanner, you may take your place with the Taylor, quoth the Parson: for inuolue the Widow is for no man but my selfe. Master Parson (quoth she) many haue runne vnder the goale, and yet haue lost the game, and I cannot helpe it though your hope be in vaine: besides Parsons are but newly suffered to haue wiues, and for my part I will beare none of the first heat. What (quoth the Taylor) to your merriuent grace to this reckoning: I neuer spent a Pig and a Goose to so bad purpose before: I promise you, when I come in, I verily thought, that you were invited by the Widow to make her and I liue together, and that this folly Tannier was brought to be a witness to the contract, and the old woman sought in for the same purpose, else I would



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never put vp so many dry bones at her hands. And surely, quoth the Tanner, I knowing this to be a Taylor, did assuredly thinke, that thou wast appointed to come and take measure for our wedding apparell. But now we are all de-coined, quoth the Parson: and therefore as we came soles, so we may depart hence like asses. That is as you interpret the matter, said the Widow: for I durst doubting that a concluding answer would breede a lare in the end among you every one, I thought it better to be done at one instant, and in mine owne house than at sundry times, and at common Tauerne: and as for the meate you sent, as it was directed of me, so had you your part thereof, and if you thinke good to take home the remainder, prepare your wallets and you shall haue it. Nay Widow quoth they, although we haue lost our labours, we haue not altogether lost our manners: that which you haue kept, and God send to be better lucke, and to you your hearts desire. And with that they departed.

The Widow being glad she was thus rid of her guests, when her man Iohn with all the rest late at supper, she sitting in a Chaire by, spake thus vnto them. Well my masters, you saw, that this day, your poore Dame had her choice of husbands, if she had liked to marry, and such as would haue loved and maintained her like a woman. 'Tis true, quoth Iohn, and I pray God you haue not withsworn your best fortune. I trust me (quoth she) I know not, but if I haue, I may thank mine owne foolish saucy.

Thus it pass on from Bartholmewtide, till it was nere Christmas, at that time the weather was so wonderfull cold, that all the running Riuers round about the Towne were frozen very thicke. The Widow being very loth any longer to lye without company, in a cold winter night made a great fire, and sent for her man Iohn, having also prepared a Chaire and a cushion, she made him sit downe therein, and sending for a pinte of good Sacke, they both went to supper.

At the end, bed time comming on, she caused her maid  
to



## of Iacke of Newbery.

in a moment to plucke off his hose and shoes, and caused him to be laid in his Masters best bed, strowed in the best Chamber, hung round about with very faire curtaines. Iohn being thus preferred, thought himselfe a Gentleman, and lying soft, after his hard labour and a good supper, quickly fell asleepe.

About midnight, the widowe being cold on her feet, crept into her mans bed to warme them. Iohn feeling one lift by the clothes, asked who was there: O god Iohn it is I, quoth the Widowe; the night is so extreame cold, and my Chamber wolles so thin, that I am like to be starved in my bed, wherefore rather than I would any way hazard my health, I thought it much better to come hither and try your countesse, to haue a little warme bedde you.

Iohn being a kind pounge man, would not say her nay, and so they spent the rest of the night both together in one bed. In the morning betimes she arose vp and made her selfe ready, and willed her man Iohn to run and fetch her a linn with all speed: for, quoth she, I haue earnest business to doe this morning. Her man did so. Which done, he made him to carry the linne before her, untill he came to Saint Bartholmewes Chappell, where Sir Iohn the Priest with his Clark and Seruant, stood waiting for her. Iohn, quoth she, turne in to the Chappell: for before I goe further I will make my prayers to St. Bartholmew, so shall I spend the better in my business. When they were come in, the Priest according to his order, came to her, and asked where the Bridegrame was: Quoth she, I thought he had been here before me. Sir, (quoth she) I will sit alone and say ouer my Beades and by that time he will come. Iohn misde at this matter, to thinke that his Maime should so suddenly be married, and he hearing nothing thereof before. The Widowe rising from her prayers, the Priest told her that the Bridegrame was not yet come. Is it true, quoth the Widowe, I promise you I will stay no longer for him, if he were as good as George a Green: and therefore dispatch, quoth she, and marry me to my man

Iohn.

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John. *Why Dame (quoth he) you doe but tell, I trow. John (quoth he) I tell not: for so I meane it shall be; and I am not strangely, but remember that you did promise me on your faith, not to hinder me when I came to the Church to be married, but rather to set it forward: therefore set your link arde, and give me your hand: for none but you shall be my husband.* John saying no more, consented, because he saw the matter could not otherwise be amended; and married they were presently. When they were come home, John entertained his Dame with a kisse, which the other servants seeing, thought him somewhat strange. The Widow caused the best cheere in the house to be set on the Table, and to breakfast they went, raising her new husband to be set in a chayre at the tables end, with a faire napkin laid on his breast: then she called out the rest of her servants, willing them to sit downe and take part of their good cheere. They bounding to see their fellow John sit at the tables end in their old masters chaire, began heartily to smile, and openly to laugh at the matter, especially because their Dame so kindly late by his fire: which she perceiving, asked if that were all the mirthes they could make before their master: I tell you, quoth she, he is my husband: by this morning we were married, and therefore hence forward take you acknowledge your duty towards him. The folkes looked one upon another, marrelling at this strange reines. When when John perceived he said, My masters must not at all: for although by Gods providence, and your Dames favour, I am preferred from being your fellows to be your master, I am not thereby so much pufft up in mine, that any way I will forget my former estate: notwithstanding, seeing I am now to hold the place of a master, it shall be holdborne in yours to forget what I was, and to take me as I am, and in doing your diligence, you shall have no cause to repent that God made me your master. The servants hearing this, as also knowing his good good natured behaviour, paid their peeres withyout in due still manner.

## of lacke of Newbery.

The next day, the report was ouer all the Towne, that Iacke of Newbery had married his Dame: so that when the woman walked abroad, every one bade God giue her joy: some said that she was matcht to her sorrow, saying, that so lusty a young man as he, would neuer love her being so ancient. Whereupon the woman made answer, that she would take him beloue in his wedding shewes, and would try his patience in the prime of his lustinesse: whereunto, many of her Collips did likewise encourage her. Every day therefore for the space of a moneth after she was married, it was her ordinary custome, to goe forth in the morning among her Collips, and acquaintance to make newes, and not to returne home till night, without any regard of her household. Of which, at her comming home her husband did very oftentimes admonish her in very gentle sort. Shewing what great inconuenience would grow thereby: the which sometime she would take in gentle part, and sometime in disdain, saying:

I am now in very good case, that he that was my seruant but the other day, will now be my master: this it is for a woman to make her foote her head. The day hath bene, when I might haue gone forth when I would, and come in againe when it had pleased me without controuersment, and now I must be subject to every Iackes speeke. I am sure (quoth she) that by my gaming abroad & carelesse spending, I waste no good of mine. I, with my thy power made thee a man, my master of the house, but not to the end I would become thy Aune I knowe, I tell thee true, that such a youngling as thy selfe, should reuerd my counsel, and giue me instructions, as if I were not able to guide my life: but faith, faith, you shall not use me like a babe, nor haile me like an Aune: and seeing my going abroad grieues thee, when I haue gone forth one day, I will goe abroad three, and for one houre, I will stay five. Well (quoth her husband) I trust you will be better aduised: and know that he went from her about his business, leaving her venturing in her sinfull sinfullures.

Thus.

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Thus the time past on, till on a certaine day she had been abroad in her wonted manner, and staying forth very late, he that the widge and went to bed. About midnight she comes to the door, and knockes to come in: to whom he looking out of the window answered in this sort:

What: tell you that keepe such a knocking: I pray you get hence, and request the Constable to provide you a bed, for this night you shall have no lodging here. I hope, quoth she, you shall not shut me out of doors like a dogge, or let me lye in the streete like a Scrumptie. Whether like a dogge or both, quoth he, all is one to me, knowing no reason, but that as you have stayed out all day for your delight, so you may lye forth all night for my pleasure. Both birds and beasts at the night's approach repair to their rest, and observe a convenient time to returne to their habitation. Take but up on the poore Spider, the Frog, the Flye, and many other silly creatures, and you shall see all these observe time to returne to their home: and if you, being a woman, will not bee the like, content your selfe to heare the bray of your storne felly: and so farewell.

The woman hearing this, made pitious moore, and in very humble sort intreated him to let her in, and to pardon this offence, and while she thus begged never to lose the like. Her husband at length being moved with pity comforted her, shut on his door, and came downe in his shirt: the door being opened, in the most quietting, and as he was about to locke it againe, in very unadvised manner the said Blanche husband, what sayd she to my morning being thus come now in my hand, and I have let it fall about the way: and should I now come forth with the candle, and helpe me to fetch it. The man incontinent did so, and while he sought for that which was out there he found, she layd into the house: and quickly clapping to the door, she lockt her husband out. He then calling with the candle in his hand to come in, but she made as if he heard not. After she went up into her chamber, and carried the key with her: but when he saw he should not answer, he presently began to knocke as before

## of Iacke.of Newbery.

as he could at the doore. At last she thrust her head out at the window, saying : Who is there : This I, quoth Iohn, what meane you by this : I pray you come downe and open the doore that I may come in.

What sir, quoth she, is it you : haue you nothing to doe but dance about the streets at this time of night, and like a Spright of the buttry hunt after Crickets, are you so hot that the house cannot hold you : Nay, I pray the sweet heart, quoth he, doe not gybe no longer, but let me in. O sir, remember, quoth she, how you stood euen now at the window, like a Iudge on the Bench, and in taunting sort kept me out of mine owne house. How now Iacke, an I euen with you : What, Iohn my man, were you so lussy to locke your Dame out of doores : Sirra, remember you bade me go to the Constable to get lodging, now you haue leasure to try if his wife will preferre you to a bed. You sir sance, that made me stand in the cold, till my set did freeze, and my teeth chatter, while you stood preaching of birds and beasts, telling me a tale of Spiders, Flies, and Frogs : goe try now if any of them will be so friendly to let the haue lodging. Why go you not man : feare not to speake with them ; for I am sure you shall finde them at home : thinke not they are such ill husbands as you, to be abroad at this time of night.

With this Iohns patience was greatly mooued, insomuch, that he deeply sware, that if she would not let him in, hee would breake downe the doore. Why Iohn, quoth she, you neede not be so hot, your cloathing is not so warme, and because I thinke this will be a warning for you against another time, how you shut me out of my house, catch, there is the key, come in at thy pleasure, and looke thou goe to bed to thy fellows, for with me thou shalt not lye to night. With that she clapt to the casement, and got her to bedde, locking the chamber doore fast. Her husband that knew it was in vaine to seeke to come into her chamber, and being no longer able to endure the cold, got him a place among his prentizes, and there slept soundly. In the morning his wife

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rose betime, and merrily made him a Calvle, and bringing it  
up to his bed chere, asked him how he did.

Quoth Iohn, troubled with a shrew, who the longer she  
lives, the worse she is: and as the people of Illyris kill men  
with their looks, so she kills her husbands heart with onto-  
ward conditions. But trust me wife, quoth he, seeing I  
finde you of such crooked qualities, that (like the Spider) ye  
turne the sweete flowers of good counsell into venomous  
poyson, from hence forth I will leaue you to your owne wil-  
fulnesse, and neither bere my mind, nor trouble my selfe to re-  
straine you: the which if I had wisely done last night, I had  
kept the house in quiet, and my selfe from cold. Husband  
(quoth she) thinke that women are like Starlings, that will  
burst their gall befoze they will yeld to the Fowler: or like  
the fish Scolopendra, that cannot be toucht without danger.  
Notwithstanding, as the hard stile doth yeld to the ham-  
mers stroke, being bled to his kinde, so will women to their  
husbands, where they are not too much crook. And seeing ye  
haue sworn to giue me my will, I bow likewise that my  
wilfulnesse shall not offend you. I tell you husband, the noble  
nature of a woman is such, that for their louing friends they  
will not sticke (like the Pelican) to pierce their owne hearts  
to doe them good. And therefore forgiving each other, all in-  
uries past, hauing also tribe one anothers patience, let vs  
quench these burning coales of contention, with the sweete  
suyce of a faithfull kisse, and shaking hands bequeath all our  
anger to the eating by of this Calvle. Her husband courte-  
ously consented: and after this time, they liued long toge-  
ther in most godly, louing and kind sort, till in the end she dy-  
ed, leauing her husband wondrous wealthy.

# of Iacke of Newbery.

## CHAP. II.

Of *Iacke of Newberie* his great wealth, and number of seruants: and also how he brought the *Queene Katharine* two hundred and fifty men prepared for the warre at his owne cost against the king of Scots at *Flodden field*.

**N**ew Iack of Newberie being a widower, had the choyce of many wines, mens daughters of good credit: & wi-  
dowes of great wealth. Notwithstand-  
ing he bent his only like to one of his  
owne seruants, whom he had tried in  
the guiding of his house a year or two:  
and knowing her carefulnesse in her  
businesse, faithfull in her dealing, an excellent good huswife,  
thought it better to haue her with nothing, than some other  
with much treasure. And besides as her qualities were good, so  
was she of very comely personage, of a sweet saour, and faire  
complexion. In the end, he opened his minde vnto her, and  
craved her good will. The maid (though she tooke his motion  
kindly) said, she would do nothing without consent of her pa-  
rents. Whereupon a Letter was writ to her father, being a  
poore man, dwelling at Alesburie in Buckinghamshire: who  
being ioyfull of his daughters good fortune, speedily came  
to Newbery, where of her master he was friendly entertai-  
ned: who after he had made him good cheare, shewed him all  
his seruants at worke, and every office in his house.

Within one roome being large and long,  
There stood two hundred Loomes full strong:  
Two hundred men the truth is so,  
Wrought in these Loomes all in a row.  
By euery one a pretty boy,  
Sate making quilts with mickle ioy:  
And in an other place hard by,  
An hundred women merily,  
Were carding hard with ioyfull cheere,



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Who singing sate with voyces cleere.  
And in a chamber close beside,  
Two hundred maidens did abide,  
In petticoates of Stammell red,  
And milke-white kerchers on their head:  
Their smocke-sleeues like to winter snow,  
That on the Westerne mountaines flow,  
And each sleeue with a filken band,  
Was feately tyed at the hand.  
These pretty maids did neuer lin,  
But in that place all day did spin:  
And spinning so with voices meet,  
Like Nightingals they sung full sweet.  
Then to another roome came they,  
Where children were in poore aray:  
And euery one sate picking wool,  
The finest from the course to cull:  
The number was seuen score and ten,  
The children of poore silly men:  
And these their labours to requite,  
Had euery one a penny at night,  
Beside their meat and drinke all day,  
Which was to them a wondrous stay.  
Within another place likewise,  
Full fifty proper men he spies,  
And these were Sheremen euery one,  
Whose skill and cunning there was showne:  
And hard by them there did remaine,  
Full fourscore Rowers taking paine.  
A Dye-house likewise had he then,  
Wherein he kept full forty men:  
And likewise in his fulling Mill,  
Full twenty persons kept he still.  
Each weeke ten good fat oxen he  
Spent in his house for certaintie:  
Beside good butter, cheese, and fish,  
And many an other wholesome dish.



## of 'Iacke' of Newbery.

He kept a Butcher all the yeere,  
A Brewer eke for Ale and Beere :  
A Baker for to bake his Bread,  
Which stood his household in good stead.  
Five Cookes within his kitchen great,  
Were all the yeare to dresse his meat.  
Sixe scullion boyes vnto their hands,  
To make cleane dishes, pots, and pans :  
Beside poore children that did stay,  
To turne the broaches every day.  
The old man that did see this sight,  
Was much amaz'd, as well he might :  
This was a gallant Cleathier sure,  
Whose fame for euer shall endure.

When the old man had sene this great household and family, then was he brought into the Ware-houses, some being filld with wool, some with flockes, some with woad and madder, and some with broad-clothes and kersies ready dyed and dyest, beside a great number of others, some strecht on the Tenter, some hanging on poles, and a great many more lying wet in other places: Sir (quoth the old man) I wis the see you be bominable rich, and cham content you shall haue my daughter, and Gods blessing and mine light on you both.

But father (quoth Iacke of Newberie) What will you bestow with her : Harry heare you (quoth the old man) I baith cham but a poore man, but I thong God, cham of good exclamation among my neighbours, and they will as soone take my vice for any thing as a richer mans: thicke I will bestow, you shall haue with a good will, because the heare very good condemnations of you in every place, the fore chill gine you twenty Nobles and a weaning Calfe, and when I dye and my wife, you shall haue the reuelation of all my goods.

When Iacke heard his offer, he was straight content, making more reckoning of the womans modesty, than her fathers money. So the marriage day being appointed, all things.

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things was prepared mete for the wedding and royall chere ordained, most of the Lords, Knights, and Gentlemen thereabout were invited therunto: the Bride being attyred in a gowne of shepes russet, and a kirtle of fine woofed, her head attyred with a billiment of gold, and her haire as yealow as gold, hanging downe behinde her, which was curiously combed and pleated, according to the manner in those dayes: she was led to Church betwene two sweete boyes, with Bride-laces & Rosemary tied about their silken Aenes: the one of them was sonne to Sir Thomas Parry, the other to Sir Francis Hungerford. Then was there a fair Bride-cup of silver and gilt carried before her: wherein was a goodly branch of Rosemary gilded very faire, hung about with silken Ribands of all colours: next was there a noise of Musicians that played all the way before her: after her came all the chiefeest maydens of the Country, some bearing great Bride Cakes, and some Garlands of wheate finely gilded, and so she past unto the Church

It is needlesse for me to make any mention here of the Bridegroom, who being a man so well beloved, wanted no company, and those of the best sort, beside diuers Marchant Strangers of the Stilliard, that came from London to the Wedding. The marriage being solemnized, home they came in order as before, and to dinner they went, where was no want of good cheare, no lacke of melody: Rensish Wine at this wedding was as plentifull as Beere or Ale: for the Marchants had sent thither ten Tunnes of the best in the Stilliard.

This wedding endured ten dayes, to the great reliefe of the poore that dwelt all about: and in the end, the Brides Father and Mother came to pay their Daughters portion: which when the Bridegroom had received, he gaue them great thanks: notwithstanding he would not suffer them yet to depart, and against they should goe home, their sonne in law came unto them, saying, Father and Mother, all the thanks that my poore heart can yeeld, I giue you for your good will, cost, and comtesse, and while I live make bold to  
vse

## of lacke of Newbery.

Use me in any thing that I am able, and in requittall of the gift you gaue me with your daughter, I giue you here twenty pound to bestow as you finde occasion, and for your losse of time, and charges riding vp and downe, I giue you here as much broadcloath as shall make you a cloake, and my mother a holiday gowne, and when this is worne out, come to me and fetch more.

¶ My good sonne (quoth the old woman) Christs benizon be with thee euermore: for to tell thee true, we had sold all our kine to make money for my daughters marriage, and this yeaen yeare we should not haue bene able to buy more: notwithstanding we would haue sold all that ever we had, because my poor wench should haue lost her marriage. (I quoth the old man) chud haue sold my coate from my backe, and my bed from vnder me, before my gyfle should haue gone without you. I thank you good father and mother, said the W:ide, and I pray God long to keepe you in health: then the W:ide kneeled downe and did her duty to her parents, who weeping for very joy, departed.

¶ Not long after this, it chanced while our noble King was making warre in France, that Iames king of Scotland, falsly breaking his oath, invaded England with a great Army, and did much hurt vpon the Borders: whereupon on the sudden, every man was appointed according to his ability, to be ready with his men and furniture, at an houres warning, on paine of death. lacke of Newbery was commanded by the Iustices to set out fye men, foure armed with pikes, and two Caliuers, and to waite the Queen in Buckinghamshire, who was there raising a great power to goe against the faithlesse king of Scots.

When lacke had receiued this charge, he came home in all hast, and cut out a whole broadcloath for ho:semens coates, and so much more as would make vp coates for the number of a hundred men: in short time he had made ready fifty tall men well mounted in white coates, and red caps with yrealow feathers, demi-lances in their hands, and fifty  
armed

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armed men on foote with Pikes, and fifty thotte in white coates also, every man so expert in the handling of his weapon, as few better were found in the field. Himselfe likewise in compleat armour on a goodly Barbed Horse, rede fore most of the company, with a Lance in his hand, and a faire plume of yellow Feathers in his crest, and in this sort he came before the Iustices: who at the first approach did not a little wonder what he should be.

At length when they had discovered that he was, the Iustices and most of the Gentlemen gaue him great commendations for this his good and forward minde shewed in this action: but some other envying hereat, gaue out words that he shewed himselfe more prodigall than prudent, and more vaine-glorious than well aduised, seeing that the best Noblemen in the Country would scarce haue done so much: and no manuell (quoth they) for such a one would call to his remembrance, that the King had often occasions to vize his Subjects to such charges, and therefore would doe at one time as they might be able to doe at another: but Iack of Newberrie like the Stork in the Spring-time, thinks the highest Cedar too lowe for him to build his nest in, and ere the yeare be halfe done may be glad to haue his bed in a bush.

These disdainfull speeches being at last brought to Iacke of Newberries eare, though it grieved him much, yet patiently put them vp till time conuenient. Within a while after, all the souldiers of Barkshire, Hampshire, and Wiltshire, were commanded to shew themselves before the Quene at Stonny Stradford, where her Grace, with many Lords, Knights, and Gentlemen were assembled, with tenne thousand men. Against Iacke should goe to the Quene, he caused his face to bee smeared with bloud, and his white coate in like manner.

When they were come before her Highnesse, she demanded (aboue all the rest) what those white coates were: Whereupon, Sir Henry Englefield (who had the leading of the Barkshire men) made answer,

May

## of Iacke of Newbery.

May it please your Maiesty to vnderstand, that hee which rideth foremost there, is called Iacke of Newbery, and all those gallant men in white, are his owne seruants, who are maintained all the yeare by him: whom hee at his owne cost hath set out in this time of extremity, to serue the King against his vnnatural King: and I assure your Maiesty, there is not, for the number, better souldiers in the field.

God sir Henry (quoth the Queene) bring the man to me, that I may see him: which was done accordingly. Then Iacke with all his men alighted, and humbly on their knees fell before the Queene. Her Grace said, Gentleman arise; and putting forth her lilly white hand, gaue it him to kisse. Most gracious Queene, quoth hee, Gentleman I am none, nor the sonne of a Gentleman, but a poore Clothier, whose lands are his Rones, having no other Rents but what I get from the backs of little sheepe: nor can I claime any cognisance but a wooden Rattle. Nevertheless, most gracious Queene, these my poore seruants and my selfe, with life and goods, are ready at your Maiesties commaund, not onely to spend our blouds, but also to lose our lines in defence of our King and Country.

Welcome to me Iacke of Newberie, said the Queene, though a Clothier by trade, yet a Gentleman by condition, and a faithfull subject in heart: and if thou chance to haue any sute in Court, make account the Queene will bee thy friend, and would to God the King had many such Clothiers. But tell me, how came thy white coate besmeared with blond, and thy face so bescratcht? May it please your Grace (quoth hee) to vnderstand, that it was my chance to meete with a monster, who like the people Cynomolgy, had the propoition of a man, but headed like a dagge, the biting of whose teeth was like the poisoned teeth of a Crocodile, his breath like the Basilisks, killing asure off. I vnderstand, his name was Ennie, who assailed me inuisibly, like the witched spirit of Mogunee, who flung stones at men, & could not be seene: and so I came by my scratcht face, not knowing when it was done. What was the cause this monster

## The pleasant Historie

should afflict the above the rest of thy company; no other men in the field: Although most Soueraigne Quene, quoth he, this poysoned curre smyleth at many, and that few can escape the hurt of his wounding breath, yet at this time he beat his force against me, not for any hurt I did him, but because I surpass him in hearty affection to my Soueraigne Lord, and with the poore Widow, offered all I had to serue my Prince and Country. It were happy for England, said the Quene, if in every market towne there were a Hybbet to hang up cures of that kinde, who like Ellops dogge lying in the danger, will doe no good himselfe, nor suffer such as would to doe any.

This speech being ended, the Quene caused her Army to be set in order, and in warlike manner to march toward Flodden, where King James had pitcht his field. But as they passed along with Drum and Trumpet, there came a Post from the valiant Earle of Surrey, with tidings to her Grace, that now she might dismisse her Army, for that it had pleased God to grant the Noble Earle victory over the Scots: whom he had by his wisdoms and valiancy vanquished in fight, and slaine their King in battell. Upon which newes, her Maestie discharged her forces, and ioyfully tooke her journey to London, with a pleasant countenance, praising God for her famous victory, and yelding thanks to all the noble Gentlemen and Souldiers for their readinesse in the action, giuing many gifts to the Nobility, and great rewards to the Souldiers: among whom, she nothing forgot Iacke of Newbery, about whose necke she put a rich chain of gold: at what time he with all the rest gaue a great shout, saying, God saue Katharine the Noble Quene of England. Many Noble men of Scotland were taken prisoners at this battell, and many more slaine: so that there neuer came a greater soyle to Scotland than this: for you shall vnderstand, that the Scottis King made full account to be Lord of this Land, watching opportunity to bring to passe his sathelesse and trayterous practise: which was when our King was in France, at Turney, and Turwin: In regard of which wars, the

## of lacke of Newbery.

the Scots counted there was none left in England, but shep-  
herds and ploughmen who were not able to lead an Army,  
having no skill in martiall affaires. In consideration of  
which advantage, hee invaded the Countrey, boasting of  
victory before he had wonne: which was no small grieffe to  
Queene Margaret, his wife, who was eldest sister to our  
noble King. Wherefore in disgrace of the Scots, and in re-  
membrance of the famous atchieved victory, the Commons  
of England made this Song: which to this day is not forgot-  
ten of many.

### THE SONG.

**K**ing *James* had made a vowe,  
keepe it well if he may:  
That he will be at louely *London*,  
vpon Saint *James* his day.

Vpon Saint *James* his day at noone,  
at faire *London* will I be;  
And all the Lords in merry *Scotland*,  
they shall dine there with me.

Then bespake good *Queene Margaret*,  
the teares fell from her eyes:  
Leane of these wars most noble King,  
keepe your fidelity.

The Water runs swift and wondrous deep,  
from bottome vnto the brimme:  
My brother *Henry* hath men good enough,  
*England* is hard to winne.

Away, quoth he, with this silly foole,  
in prison fast let her lie:  
For she is come of the English blood,  
and for these words she shall dye.

E a

W 4

## The pleasant Historie

With that bespake Lord *Thomas Howard*,  
the *Queenes* Chamberlaine that day :  
If that you put *Queene Margarett* to death,  
*Scotland* shall rue it alway.

Then in a rage King *Lamie* did say,  
Away with this foolish Mome :  
He shall be hanged, and the other be burned,  
so soone as I come home.

At *Flodden Field* the Scots came in,  
which made our English men faine,  
At *Bramstone-green* this battell was scene :  
there was King *Lamie* slaine.

Then presently the Scots did flie,  
their Cannons they left behinde,  
Their ensignes gay were worne all away,  
our Souldiers did beate them blinde.

To tell you plaine, twelve thousand were slaine;  
that to the fight did stand ;  
And many prisoners tooke that day,  
the best in all *Scotland*,

That day made many a fatherlesse childe,  
and many a widow poore ;  
And many a Scottish gay Lady,  
sate weeping in her bowre.

Jacke with a seather was leapt all in leather,  
his boastings were all in vaine :  
He had such a chance with a new morrice dante,  
he neuer went home againe.

FINIS.

Flow



## of Iacke of Newbery.

### CHAP. III.

How *Iacke of Newbery* went to receiue the King, as he went in progresse into Barkshire: and how hee made him a banquet in his owne house.



About the tenth year of *Y kings* reigne, his Grace made his progresse into Barkshire, against which time Iacke of Newberie cloathed 30. tall fellows, being his household seruants, in blew coates, faced with Sarcenet, euery one having a good sword & buckler on his shoulder, himselfe in a plaine russet coate, a paire of white kersie breeches without welt or guard, and stockens of the same peece sowed to his slops, which had a great codpeece, whercon hee stucke his pinnes: who knowing the King would come ouer a certain meadow, nere adioining to the Town, got himselfe thither with all his men; and repairing to a certaine Ant-hill, which was in the field, took vp his seat there, causing his men to stand round about the same with their swords drawn.

The King comming nere the place with the rest of his Nobility, and seeing them stand with their drawn weapons, sent to know the cause. Garret King at Armes was the Messenger, who spake in this sort. Good fellows, the Kings Maiessty would know to what end you stand here with your swords and bucklers prepared to fight. With that, Iacke of Newbery started vp, and made this answer. Harold (quoth he) returne to his Highnesse, it is poore Iacke of Newbery, who being scant Parquette of a Pole-hill, is chosen Prince of Ants: and here I stand with my weapons and guard about mee, to defend and keepe these my poore and painefull subiects from the force of the idle Butterflies, their sworn enemies, lest they should disturbe this quiet Common-wealth, who this Summers season are making their Winters provision.

## The pleasant Historie

The messenger returning, told his Grace that it was one lacke of Newbery, that stood there with his men about him, to guard (as they say) a company of Ants, from the furious wrath of the Prince of Butterflies. With this newes the King heartily laught, saying: Indeed it is no maruell he stands so well prepared, considering what a terrible tyrant he hath to deale withall. Certainly, my Lords (quoth he) this seemes to be a pleasant fellow: and therefore we will send to talke with him.

The messenger being sent, told Lacke he must come speak with the King. Quoth he, his Grace hath a horse and I am on foot; therefore will him to come to me: beside that, while I am away, our enemies might come and put my people in hazzard, as the Scots did England, while our King was in France. How dares the Lambe be so bold with the Lyon, quoth the Herald: Why, quoth he, if there be a Lyon in the field, here is neuer a cocke to feare him: and tell his Majesty, he might thinke me a very bad Conewour that would walke aside vpon pleasure, and leane my people in perill. Herald (quoth he) it is written, He that hath a charge must looke to it, and so tell thy Lord my King. The message being done, the King said: My Lords, seeing it will be no other, we will ride vp to the Emperour of Ants, that is so carefull in his government. At the Kings approach, lacke of Newbery and his seruants put vp all their weapons, and with a topfull crye hung vp their caps in token of victory. Why how now my masters (quoth the King) is your wars ended: Let me see, where is the Lord Generall of this great Camp: With that, lacke of Newbery with all his seruants fell on their knees, saying: God saue the King of England, whose sight hath put our foes to flight, and brought great peace to the poore labouring people. Trust me (quoth our King) here be pretty fellows to fight against Butterflies: I must commend your courage, that dares withstand such mighty giants. Most dread Sovereigne (quoth lacke) not long agoe, in my conceit, I saw the most prouident Nation of the Ants summoned their chiefe Pères to a Parliament, which was held

## of lacke of Newbery.

held in the famous city Dry Dusty, the one and twentieth day of September: thereas by their wisdomes, I was chosen their King; at what time also many bills of complaint were brought in against diuers il members in the common-wealth: among whome, the Houle was attainted of high treason to their State: and therefore was banished for euer from their quiet Kingdome: so was the Gashopper and the Catterpillar, because they were not onely idle, but also liued by on the labours of other men: amongst the rest, the Butterflie was very much disliked, But few durst say any thing to him, because of his golden apparell: who through sufferance grew so ambitious and malapert, that the poore Ant could no longer get an egge into her nest, but he would haue it away, and especially against Casser, which at length was disliked. This painted aske toke snuffe in the nose, and assembled a great many other of his owne coate, by windie warres to rote this painefull people out of the land, that he himselfe might be seated aboue them all. (These were proud Butterflies, quoth the King.) Whereupon I with my men (quoth lacke) prepared our selues to withstand them, till such time as your Maesties royall presence put them to flight.

Cass (said the King) thou must think that the force of flies is not great. Notwithstanding (quoth lacke) their gay getones make poore men affraid. I perceiue (quoth Cardinall Wolfie) that you being a King of Ants doe carry a great grudge to the Butterflies. I, quoth lacke, we be as great foes, as the Fore and the Snake are friends: for the one of them being subile, lowes the other for his craft: but now I intend to be no longer a Prince, because the maiesty of a King hath eclipsed my glory: so that looking like the Peacocke on my blacke feet, makes me abase my vaine glorious feathers, and humbly yeld unto his Maestie all my Soueraigne rule and dignity, both of life and goods, casting my weapons at his fete, to doe any seruice wherein his Grace shall command me. God a mercy good lacke (quoth the King) I haue often heard of the, and this morning I mean to visite thy house.

Thus

## The pleasant Historie

Thus the King with great delight rode along untill hee came to the Townes end, where a great multitude of people attended to see his Majesty: where also Queen Katharine with all her traine met him. Thus with great reioycing of the Commons, the King and Queen passed along to this solitary Clothiers house, where the good wife of the house with these scorne maidens attending on her, presented the King with a Bee-hive, most richly gilt with gold, & all the Bees therein were also made of gold curiously by Art, and out of the top of the same Hive, sprung a flourishing greene tree, which bore golden Apples, and at the roote thereof lay diuers Serpents, seeking to destroy it, whom Prudence and Fortitude trode under their feet, holding this inscription in their hands;

Loe here presented to your Roiall sight,  
The figure of a flourishing Common-wealth:  
Where vertuous subiects labour with delight,  
And beat the drones to death which live by stealth:  
Ambition, Enuie, Treason, loathsome serpents be,  
Which seeke the downefall of this fruitfull tree.

But Lady Prudence with deepe searching eye,  
Their ill intended purpose doth preuent,  
And noble fortitude standing alwayes nye,  
Disperst their power prepar'd with bad intent.  
Thus are they foild that mount with meanes vnmeet,  
And so like slaues are troden vnder feet.

The King favourably accepted this Embleme, and receiving it at the womans hands, willed Cardinall Wollic to look thereon, commanding it should be sent to Windsor Castle. This Cardinall was at that time Lord Chancelor of England, and a wonderfull proud Prelate, by whose meanes great variance was set betwixt the King of England and the French King, the Emperour of Almane, and diuers other Princes of Christendome, whereby the traffike of those Merchants was utterly forbidden, which byes a generall  
two

## of lacke of Newbery.

woe through England, especiall among Clothiers: insomuch, that hauing no sale for their cloath, they were faine to put away many of their people which wrought for them, as hereafter moze at large shall be declared.

Then was his Maiesty brought into a great Hall; where fours long tables stood ready conered: and passing through that place, the King and Quene came into a faire and large Parlour, hung about with goodly Tapistry, where was a Table prepared for his Highnesse and the Quenes Grace. All the floore where the King sat was conered with broad cloathes instead of graine rushes: these were choise peeces of the finest wolle, of an Azure colour, valued at an hundred pound a cloath, which afterward was given to his Maiesty. The King being set, with the chieftest of the Counsell about him, after a delicate dinner, a sumptuous banquet was brought in, serued all in glasse: the description wherof were too long for me to write, and you to read. The great Hall was also filled with Lords, Knights, and Gentlemen, who were attended by no other but the seruants of the house. The Ladies of Honour and Gentlewomen of the Court were all seated in another Parlour by themselves: at whose table the maidens of the house did waite in decent sort. The Seruing-men by themselves, and the Pages & footmen by themselves, vpon whom the prentizes did attend most diligently. During the Kings abiding in this place, there was no want of delicates: Rhenish wine, Claret wine & Spacke, was as plentifull as small Ale. Thus from the highest to the lowest, they were serued in such sort, as no discontent was found any way, so that great commendations redounded vnto the Goodman of the house. The Lord Cardinall that of late found himselfe galled by the Allegory of the Ants, spake in this wise to the King. If it should please your Highnesse (quoth he) but to note the vaine-gloze of these Artificers, you should finde no small cause of dislike in many of their actions. For an instance, the fellow of this house, he hath not stricke this day to vndoe himselfe, onely to become famous by receiuing of your Maiesty: like Herostratus the Shoemaker, that burn-

## The pleasant Historie

ned the Temple of Diana, only to get himselfe a name, more than for any affection he beares to your Grace, as may well be proued by this: Let there be but a simple Subsidie lentred vpon them for the assistance of your Highnesse Warres, or any other waightie affaires of the Common-wealth, and State of the Realme, though it be not the twentieth part of their substance, they will so grudge and repine, that it is wonder full: and like people desperate cry out, they be quite vndone. By Lord Cardinall, quoth the Quene (vnder correction of my Lord the King) I durst lay an hundred pound Iack of Newbery was neuer of that minde, nor is not at this instant: if ye aske him, I warrant he will say so. By selfe also had a prooffe thereof at the Scottissh invasion, at what time this man being ceased but at sixe men, brought (at his owne cost) an hundred and fiftie into the field. I would I had moe such subjects said the King, and many of so good a minde. Ho, ho, Harry (quoth Will Sommers) then had not Empson and Dudley been chynocled for knaues, nor sent to the Tower for treason: But then they had not knowne the paine of imprisonment, quoth our King, who with their subtilty grieved many others. But their subtilty was such that it broke their neckes, quoth Will Sommers. Whereat the King and Quen laughing heartily, rose from the Table. By which time Iacke of Newbery had caused all his folkes to goe to their worke, that his Grace and all the Nobility might see it; so indeed the Quen had requested. Then came his Highnesse where he saw a hundred Lomes, standing in one roome, and two men working in every one, who pleasantly sung on this sort.

### *The Weavers Song.*

**V**Vhen Hercules did vse to spin,  
and Pallas wrought vpon the Loom,  
Our trade to flourish did begin:  
while Conscience went not selling Broomes.  
Then loue and friendship did agree,  
To keep the band of vnity.

When

## of Iacke of Newbery.

When Princes sons kept sheepe in field,  
and Queenes made cakes of wheaten flowre,  
Then men to lucre did not yeeld,  
which brought good cheere in euery bower,  
Then loue and friendship did agree,  
To hold the bands of amitie.

But when that Giants huge and hie,  
did fight with speares like Weauers beames,  
Then they in iron beds did lie,  
and brought poore men to hard extreames.  
Yet loue and friendship did agree,  
To hold the bands of amitie,

Then *David* tooke his sling and stone,  
not fearing great *Goliaths* strength,  
He pierst the braine, and broke the bone,  
though he were fifty foote of length.  
For loue and friendship, &c.

But while the Greekes besieged *Troy*,  
*Penelope* apace did spin,  
And Weauers wrought with mickle ioy,  
though little gaines were comming in.  
For loue and friendship, &c.

Had *Helen* then fate carding wooll,  
(whose beauteous face did breed such strife)  
She had not beene fir *Paris* trull,  
nor caus'd so many lose their life.  
Yet we by loue did still agree, &c.

Or had King *Priams* wanton sonne  
been making quills with sweet content,  
He had not then his friends vndone,  
when he to *Greece* a gadding went.  
For loue and friendship did agree, &c.



## The pleasant Historie

The Cedar tree endures more stormes,  
than little shrubs that sprout not hie :  
The Weauer lines more void of harmes,  
than Princes of great dignitie.  
While loue aud friendship doth agree, &c.

The Shepheard sitting in the field,  
doth tune his pipe with hearts delight :  
When Princes march with speare and shield,  
the poore man soundly sleepest all night.  
While loue and friendship doth agree, &c.

Yet this by prooffe is daily tride,  
for Gods good gifts we are ingrate :  
And no man through the world so wide,  
liues well contented with his state.  
No loue nor friendship we can see,  
to hold the bands of amitie.

Well sung good fellows, said our King : light hearts and merry mindes line long without gray haire. But (quoth Will Sommers) seldome without red noses. Well, said the King, there is a hundred angells to make shere withall : and loke that every yeare once you make a feast among your selues, and frankly (every yeare) I giue you leave to fetch foure Buckes out of Dunington Parke, without any mans let or controulement. I beseech your Grace (quoth Will Sommers) let it be with a condition. What is that, said our King : My Liege, quoth he, that although the Baker will haue the skins, that they may giue their wines the homes. Goe to said the Duine, thy head is fuller of knauery, than thy purse is of crownes.

The poore workemen humbly thanked his Maiesty for his bountifull liberality : and euer since, it hath bene a custome among the Weauers, every yeare presently after Bartholmewide, in a remembrance of the Kings fauour, to meet together, and make a merry feast. His Maiesty came next among

## of Iacke of Newbery.

among the spinners and carders, who were wittily a woꝝ king: whereat Will Sommers fell into a great laughter. What ailes the soles to laugh, said the King: Sperry (quoth Will Sommers) to see these maidens get their living, as Wols doe eate their meate. How is that, said the Quene: By going still backward, quoth Will Sommers: and I will lay a wager, that they that practise so well being maidens to goe backward, will quickly learn ere long to fall backward.

But sirra, said the Cardinall, thou didst fall forward when thou brokest thy face in macker Kingsmills seller. But you my Lord felle forward (quoth Will Sommers) when you felle in the stocks at Sir Amie Paulers. Whereat there was greater laughing than before. The King and Quene and all the Nobility hardily beheld these women, who for the most part were very faire and comely creatures, and were all attired alike from top to toe. Then (after due reuerence) the maidens in dulced manner chaunted out this Song, two of them singing the Ditty, and all the rest bearing the burden.

### *The Maidens Song.*

**I**T was a Knight in Scotland borne,  
follow my loue leape ouer the strand:  
Was taken prisoner and left forlorne,  
euen by the good Earle of Northumberland.

Then was he cast in prison strong,  
follow my loue, leap ouer the strand:  
Where he could not walke nor lie along,  
euen by the good Earle of Northumberland.

And as in sorrow thus he lay,  
follow my loue, leap ouer the strand:  
The Earles sweet Daughter walkt that way,  
and she the faire flower of Northumberland.

And passing by like an Angell bright,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:

## The pleasant Historie

This prisoner had of her a sight,  
and she the faire flower of *Northumberland*.

And loud to her this knight did cry,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:  
The salt teares standing in his eye,  
and she the faire flower of *Northumberland*.

Faire Lady, he said, take pity on me,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:  
And let me not in prison dye,  
and you the faire flower of *Northumberland*.

Faire Sir, how should I take pittie of thee,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:  
Thou being a foe to our Country,  
and I the faire flower of *Northumberland*.

Faire Lady, I am no foe he said,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:  
Through thy sweete loue here was I staid,  
for thee the faire flower of *Northumberland*.

Why shouldst thou come here for loue of me,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:  
Hauing wife and children in thy Countrie,  
and I the faire flower of *Northumberland*.

I sweare by the blessed Trinitie,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:  
I haue no wife nor children I,  
nor dwelling at home in merry *Scotland*.

If courteously you will set me free,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:  
I vow that I will marry thee,  
so soone as I come in merry *Scotland*.

Thou

## of lacke of New bery.

Thou shalt be Lady of Castles and Towres,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand :  
And sit like a Queene in princely bowers,  
when I am at home in faire *Scotland*.

Then parted hence this Lady gay,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand :  
And got her fathers ring away,  
to help this sad knight into faire *Scotland*.

Likewise much gold she got by sleight,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand :  
And all to help this forlorne knight,  
to wend from her father to faire *Scotland*.

Two gallant steeds both good and able,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand :  
She likewise tooke out of the stable,  
to ride with this knight into fair *Scotland*.

And to the Jaylor she sent this ring,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand :  
The knight from prison forth to bring,  
to wend with her into faire *Scotland*.

This token set this prisoner free,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand :  
Who straight went to this faire Lady,  
to wend with her into fair *Scotland*.

A gallant steed he did bestride,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand :  
And with the Lady away did ride,  
and she the faire flower of *Northumberland*.

They rode till they came to a water cleere,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand :

Good

## The pleasant Historie

Good sir how should I follow you here,  
and I the faire flower of *Northumberland*.

The water is rough and wonderfull deep,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand :  
And on my saddle I shall not keep,  
And I the faire flower of *Northumberland*.

Fears not the foord, faire Lady, quoth he,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand :  
For long I cannot stay for thee,  
and thou the faire flower of *Northumberland*.

The Lady prickt her wanton steed,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand :  
And ouer the riuer swom with speed,  
and she the faire flower of *Northumberland*.

From top to toe all wet was she,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand :  
This haue I done for loue of thee,  
and I the faire flower of *Northumberland*.

Thus rode she all one winters night,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand :  
Till *Edenborow* they saw in sight,  
the chiefe towne in all *Scotland*.

Now chuse (quoth he) thou wanton flower,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand :  
Whether thou wilt be my Paramour,  
or get thee home to *Northumberland*.

For I haue wife and children fine,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand :  
In *Edenborow* they be a fine,  
then get thee home to faire *Enland*.

This

He has a /  
And a /  
And a /  
And a /

[The following text is heavily obscured by a large, dark, irregular stain or shadow, rendering it illegible.]

## The pleasant Historie

And brought her to her fathers againe,  
and he the good Earle of *Northumberland*.

All you faire maidens be warned by me,  
follow my loue, come ouer the strand:  
Scots were neuer true nor neuer will be,  
no Lord, nor Lady, nor faire England.

FIN IS.

After the Kings Spaielly and the Quene had heard this song suddenly sung by them, he call them a great reward: and so departing thence, went to the *Rolling-mills*, and *Dye-house*, where a great many were employed at worke: and his Spaielly perceiuing what a great number of people were by this one man set on worke, both men and women, commended him, saying further, that no Castle is all the Land was so much to be honoured and admired as this, which, quoth he, may well be called, *Castell of the poore*. And as the King returned from this place, both intent to take hoys and depart, there met him a great many of children in garments of white silke, strewn with gold, their heads crowned with golden Bayes, and about their waists each one had a scarf of green Satin full of flowers, in their hands they bore silver bowes, and under their girdles golden arrows.

The foremost of them represented *Diana*, Goddess of Chastity, who was attended by a train of beautiful Symphes, and they presented to the King three prisoners: The first was *Isora* and gentle woman, carrying a frowning countenance, and her forehead full of wrinkles, her dayes as black as night, and her garments all bloody, a great wound she had in her hand all stained with purple gore: they called her name *Hellena*, daughter of *Isurres*, who had this daughter: the first of them was a tall woman, solean and ill-facured, that for shee her bones were ready to start out of the skinne, of a pale and deadly colour: her eyes ranke into her head: her legges so feeble, that they could scarcely



## of lacke of Newbery.

scantly carry the baby: all along her armes & hands through the faine you might tell the fustines, fustins and bones; her teeth were very strong and sharp withall: she was so greedy, that she would carry with her teeth to tear the fustins from her chane armes: her attyre was blacke, and all tyme and ragged, she went barefooted, and her armes were hairy: she looked like a strong and lusty woman, with a lacke pittifull, and sumerfull countenance: her garments were all made of Iron and Steele, and she carried in her hand a naked taper, and she was called the Sword. The third was also a small creature, her eyes did sparkle like burning coales: her haire was like a flame, and her garments like burning brimstone: she looked like a strong and lusty woman, with a lacke pittifull, and sumerfull countenance: her garments were all made of Iron and Steele, and she carried in her hand a naked taper, and she was called the Sword. The third was also a small creature, her eyes did sparkle like burning coales: her haire was like a flame, and her garments like burning brimstone: she looked like a strong and lusty woman, with a lacke pittifull, and sumerfull countenance: her garments were all made of Iron and Steele, and she carried in her hand a naked taper, and she was called the Sword.

After this they rested againe, and brought into his Highnesse five other Children: their countenance was proudly and amiable, their attyre was rich and sumptuous: the one carried in his hand a golden Trumpet, and the other a Balloone: and these were called, Peace & Victorie, whom the Countesse of Cheshire charged to invite her to this famous Prince for ever. This done, each child after other with his reverence, came into his Majesty's private lodging: Willshower, after the manner of the Puritans, offering something in token of loyalty and obedience: The King and Queen beholding the fustins bones and countenance of these children, denouncing of lacke of Newbery to these children they were: Willshower: It shall please your Highnesse to understand, that these are the children of some people, that doe get their living by picking of small bones from a goodmeale once in a while. Willshower: that the King began to tell his Willshowers, where he heard that there was 96. children. Certainly said the Countesse, I perceive Willshower as these children to the poor as to the rich, and for many times: and though their eyes and hearing be but simple, the blessing of God hath cheris them. Therefore said the Countesse, I shall needes to have time of them to waite in my Chamber. Fair Katharine said the King, thou and I have

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exempt in one opinion, in thinking these children siffer for the  
 Court than the Countrey: whereupon he made choise of a  
 dozen more, four he appointed to be Pageants his royall per-  
 son, and therof he sent to the Universities calling to every  
 one a Gentleman to bring. Divers of the Noble men did  
 in the last entertaine some of those children into their ser-  
 vices, so that (in the end) not one was left to picke himself, but  
 were all so provided for, that their Parents never needed to  
 care for them: and God to blessing them, that each of them  
 came to be men of great account and authority in the Land,  
 whose posterities continue to this day magnifical and fa-  
 mous. The King, Queene, and Nobles, being ready to de-  
 part, after great thanks was given them by lacke of New-  
 berie, his Daughters would have been thought, but he  
 mildly refused it saying, I beseech your Grace let me have  
 a pious Cloister among my people, in whose maintenance I  
 take more sollicitie, than in all the haire titles of Gentility:  
 for such are the labouring Rats where I live to be freed,  
 and such be the Bees where I live: the labour in this life,  
 not for our selves, but for the glory of God, and to be ser-  
 vants to our heere Sovereigne. My Daughters need be no  
 hinderance of the Faculty, upon the King. O my most  
 Sovereigne, this lacke of house and company may be compa-  
 red to the lacke of Larder, which makes men forget their  
 fathers that have served: and in the end I am still hope to  
 make them where I come, and that I am, I beseech your  
 Grace let me rest in my modest estate, a pious Cloister to my  
 dying day. Thinking thus (said the King) that a wiser minde  
 is a thing hard to befall. I will leave her to the riches of  
 my alone content, and so farewell. The Queene Daughters  
 taking her leave of the good wife with a hartely kiss, gave  
 her in token of remembrance a most precious and rich Dia-  
 mond set in gold, about the which was also curiously set two  
 Rubies, and two Emerals in one place, valued at nine hun-  
 dred Markes: and so her Grace departed. But in the meane  
 space, Will Sommers kept company among the ladies, and  
 taught himselfe to spawling as they did, looking among these

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was held as a fustell of a gallant of his, but William by no means would per thecept they would take it out of him, rating every kille as a surpise. & the poyson was vntill the time comen, quench the motion: the one sayd that he would not kille of so half a rate; and the other, he could not be using he should give as much as you.

### CHAP. III.

How the maidens served Will Sommers for his lawcheste.

**T**he maidens gathered together, seeing Will Sommers was to have done with their brother master his wayes, and would not give the assistance to (from him as he desired). And therefore they would him bound and fast, and set him lying in against a wall, from which they would be toke will not, and that standing he could not call them. And because he was his longer time in company, they had a gagge in his mouth, that a man as he could not be the last part along: In that he stood as a new gagge, so, because the women of them got a couple of bags of papples, and putting them in a bagge, laid them in his mouth before William, which the first turned down the collar of his jerkin, and put an handkerchief about his neck in stead of a new turtell: And because the other maide with a hollow and hollow in the same, and took the perfume in the papples bagge, that was about the ears and lips, till he looked like a cypress wood, and with her hand wash him very o:deely: the first being come that waying, Will could by no means abide it, nor to come of other language, cryed, Ah ha ha ha. I am he would have best, and could not, so that he was faine to swallow downe such language as he never tasted the like. When he had a while while been washed in this sort, at the length he arose, and went upon his knees, praising himself to their honour: which the maidens perceiving, pulled the gagge out of his mouth. He had no longer the liberty of his tongue, but that he could not speak like a vntillity, making that could stand there so long, at last

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last asit howe he liked his teaching: Gods munda, quoth hee,  
I was neuer thus waight, nor ever met with such Markers  
since I was borne: let me goe, quoth he, and I will giue you  
whatsoever you will demand, whereunto they said them an  
English Creature. Nay, quoth one of the Waiuers, you are  
yet but waight, but we will haue you ere you go. Where  
Waiuers quoth he, pardon my hauing, let it suffice that you  
haue waight me: if I haue done a trespass to your Trade,  
forgiue it me, and I will neuer heresfter offend you. With  
said the Waiuers, you haue made our whelkes call their hands,  
and bviuised the catch of our Cards in such sort, as the offence  
may not be remitted without great penitence. As for your  
gold, we regard it not: Consider as you are performed for  
the hogs, so we entayne you this night to ferre all our hogs,  
which penitence if you will shew with all speed to per-  
forme, we will let you loose. A quoth Will, the huge Ele-  
phant was neuer more fearefull of the Elly Hope, than I am  
of your entaynement: therefore let me loose, and I will doe it  
with all diligence. When they braued him, and brought  
him among a great company of Waiuers, which when Will  
had well beheld, hee came out of the yard all the Solues:  
they were many, quoth the Waiuers, what meanes you by this?  
They quoth Will, these be all solues, and my penitence is but  
to loose the hogs. As it were, quoth they, haue you overtaken  
us in this sort? Well, looke there be not one hog deferred  
for to loose you, William Sommers script by his shewes  
very exteriep, and clapt an eppen about his mouth holon, and  
taking a paffe, struk the hogs heartily. When he had gi-  
uen them all meat, he said thus:

My task is duely done,

My liberty is wonne,

The hogs haue care their crabs,

Therefore farewell you deare.

They said hee no, quoth they, the veriest hog of all hath yet had  
nothing. Where the diuill is he, said Will, that I see him not?  
Except his mother. Indeed, quoth they, take the scell by the  
nose, and thou shalt catch him by the front. I was neuer so  
very

## of lacke of Newbery.

Here a dog, quoth he, but I would alway spare from my shon belly to give a woman. If thou doe not (say they) este (like the prodigall Sonne) with thy fellows hogs, we will so have thee, as thou shalt verily repent thy disobedience. He saring no more, committed himselfe to their mercy: and so they let him goe. When he came to the Court, he shewed to the King all his adventures among the swinish multitude, where at the King and Queene laughed heartily.

### CHAP. V.

Of the pictures which Lacke of Newbery had in his house, whereby he encouraged his servants to lacke for fame and dignitie.

**I**n a faire large Parlour which was furnished round about, lacke of Newbery had sixe faire pictures hanging, which were covered with Curtaines of graine like, fringed with gold, which he would often shew to his friends and friends. In the first was the Picture of a man heard, before whom staid a great King named Viriart, who sometime governed the people of Portugall. He here, quoth lacke, the father a Shepherd, the sonne a Generalisme. This man ruled in Portugall, and made great warres against the Romans, and after that was made Spane, yet in the end was traiterously slaine.

The next was the Picture of Agathocles, which hee his surpassing wisdom and might, was created King of Sicilia, and maintained battell against the people of Carthage. His father was a poor shepher, before whom he also staid. And thus the life of this King, that whensoever he made a banquet, he would have as well dishes of earth as of gold set upon the Table: to the intent he might alwayes beare in minde the place of his beginning, his Fathers house and family.

The third was the picture of Spithereas an Achenian boy, who vanquished the Lacedaemonians in plain and open battell. This man was Captaine Generall to Artaxerxes, King

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King of Persia, whose father was naturally a Cobler, and there like his picture. Eumenes was also a famous Captain to Alexander the great, whose father was no other than a Cartier.

The fourth was the Basillike of Aelius Prætorius, former times Governor of Rome, yet was his father but a Sillanier: and afterwards, to give example to others of like condition to leave riches of worldly men, he caused the face to be beautified with marble curiously cut, wherein his father before him was wont to get his living.

The fifth was the picture of Dioclesian, that so much annoyed Rome with his magnificent and triumphant pictures. This was a famous Emperor, although no other than the form of a Cocke-hunter. Valentinian was the next, painted most artificially, who was also cruellous Emperor, and was but the son of a poor Maye-wormer: as in the same picture was expressed, where his father was painted by him, below his backe.

The sixth was the Emperor Probus, whose father being a Cartier, was pictured by him holding a Spade.

The seventh picture was of Marcus Aurelius, whose story was honestly, he was so long a student an Emperor, yet was he but a Clerk's-lawyer's son.

The ninth was the picture of the holiest Emperor Maximian, the son of a Blacksmith, who was there painted as he was wont to labour at the Anvil.

In the tenth table was painted the Emperor Gaius, into at the first was but a poor Shepherd.

Next to this picture was placed the picture of those Popes of Rome, whose holiness and learning shamed them to that degree. The first was the holie Counterfeited Pope John the 21. whose father was a Shee-shearer: he being shorn shaven, increased their rents and profitings greatly.

The other was the picture of Pope Sixtus the fourth, of that name being a poor Shee-shearer's son.

The thirteenth picture was of Lamulus King of Lombardie;

## of Iacke of Newbery.

hardy, who was no better than the son of a common Drunken-  
pet: being painted like a naked childe walking in water,  
and taking hold of the point of a Launce, by the which he  
held fast, and saved himselfe. The reason whereof, was  
this: After his lewd Mother was deliuered of him, she vn-  
naturally threw him into a deepe stinking Ditch, where  
was some water. By hap King Agilmond passed that way,  
and found this childe almost drowned, who mouing him softly  
with the point of his Launce, the better to perceiue what he  
was, the childe (though then newly born) tooke hold thereof  
with one of his pretty hands, not suffering it to slide or slip  
away againe: which thing the King considering, being ama-  
zed at the strange force of this young little Infant, caused it  
to be taken vp, and carefully to be fostered. And because the  
place where he found him was called Lama, he named the  
childe Lamusius: who afterward grew to be so braue a man,  
and so much fauoured of Fortune, that in the end he was  
crowned King of the Lombards, who lived there in honour,  
and in his succession after him, euē vntill the time of the vn-  
fortunate King Albuina, when all came to ruine, subuersion  
and destruction.

In the fourteenth picture Primisslas King of Bohemia was  
most artificially drawn: before whome there stood an Horse  
without Bridle or Saddle, in a field where Husband-men  
were at plough. The cause why this King was thus painted  
(quoth Iacke) was this. At that time the King of the Bohe-  
mians died without issue, and great strife being amongst the  
nobility for a new King, at length they all consented that  
a horse should be let into the field, without bridle or saddle,  
hauiug all determined with most assured purpose to make  
him their king, before whom this horse rested: at what  
time it came to passe, that the horse first stayed himselfe be-  
fore this Primisslas, being a simple creature, who was then  
busie driving the plough, they presently made him their  
Soueraigne, who ordered himselfe and his Kingdome very  
wisely. He ordained many good lawes, he compassed the  
City of Prague with strong wals, besides many other  
things,



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things, meriting perpetuall land and commendations.

The fiftiēth was the Picture of Theophrastus, a Philosopher, a counsellor of Kings, a companion of Nobles, who was but some of and Taylor. Seeing then my good servants, that these men haue been aduanced to high estate and Princely dignities, by wisdome, learning and diligence, I would wish you to imitate the like vertues, that you might attaine the like honours : for which of you doth know what good fortune God hath in store for you : there is none of you so poorly boine, but that men of baser birth haue come to great honours. The tole hand shall euer go in a ragged garment, and the sloathfull liue in repproach : but such as do lead a virtuous life, and gouern themselves discretly, shall of the best be esteemed, and spend their dayes in credit.

### CHAP. VI.

How all the Clothiers in England ioyned together, & with one consent complained to the King of their great hindrance sustained for want of Traffique into other Countreies, whereupon they could get no sale for their Cloath.

**B**y meanes of the warres which our King had with other countries, many Merchant Strangers were prohibited for coming to England, as also out of some Merchants (in like sort) were forbidden to haue dealings with France or the Low-countries : by meanes whereof the Clothiers had most of their cloath lying on their hands, and that which they sold was at so low a rate, that the money scanty paid for the wooll and workmanship. Whereupon they sought to ease themselves by abating the poore workemens wages. And when that did not preuaile, they turned away many of their people, Weaues, Shearmen, Spinners and Carders, so that where there was a hundred Looms kept in one towne, there was scant fifty : and he that kept twenty put downe tenne. Many a poore man (for want of worke) was hereby vndone, with his wife and children, and  
it

## of Iacke of Newbery.

It made many a pooze widow to sit with a hungry belly. This bred great woe in most places in England. In the end Iack of Newbery intended (in the behalfe of the pooze) to make a Supplication to the King: and to the end he might do it the moze effectually, he sent Letters to all the chiefe cloathing townes in England to this effect.

The Letter.

**VV** Elbeloued friends & brethren, hauing a taste of the generall grieve, and feeling (in some measure) the extremity of these times, I fell into consideration by what meanes we might best expell these sorowes, and recouer our former commodity. When I had well thought hereon, I found that nothing was moze needefull herein, than a faithfull vnity among our selues. This soze of necessity can no way be cured but by concoyd: for like as the flame consumes the candle, so men through discoyd waste themselves. The pooze hate the rich, because they will not let them on worke; and the rich hate the pooze, because they seeme burdenous: so both are offended for want of gaine. When Belinus and Brennus were at strife, the Queen their mother in their greatest fury perswaded them to peace, by hysing her conception of them in one wombe, and mutuall cherishing of them from their tender peares: so let our Art of Cloathing, which like a kinde mother hath cherished vs with the excellency of her secrets, perswade vs to an vnity. Though our Occupation be decayed, let vs not deale with it as men doe by their old shoes, which after they haue long bozned them out of the myze, do in the end sling them on the dunghill: or as the Husband-man doth by his Bees, who for their Honey burnes them. Deare friends, consider that our Trade will maintaine vs, if we will byhold it: and there is nothing base, but that which is basely vsed. Assemble therefore your selues together, and in euery town tell the number of those that haue their liuing by meanes of this Trade, note it in a Bill, and send it to me. And because sutes in Court are like Winter nights, long and werisome, let there be in each place a weekly collection made to defray charges: for I tell

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you, Noble mens Secretaries and cunning Lawyers haue flow tongues and deafe eares, which must be daily noynted with the sweete oyle of Angels. Then let two honest discret men be chosen and sent out of euerie towne to meete me at Blackwell Hall in London on All Saints Eue, and then we will present our humble petition to the King. Thus I bid you heartily farewell.

Copies of this Letter being sealed, they were sent to all the cloathing townes of England, and the Weaues both of linnen and woollen gladly receiued them: so that when all the Bills were brought together, there were found of the Clothiers, and those they maintained, thre score thousand and five hundred persons. Wherefore, euerie cloathing Towne sending vp two men to London, they were found to be an hundred and twelue persons, who in very humble sort fell downe before his Maiesty walking in S. Iames his Parke, and deliuered to him their Petition. The King presently perusing it, asked if they were all Clothiers: Who answered (as it were one man) in this sort: We are (most gracions king) all poore Clothiers, and your Maiesties faithfull subjects. My Lords (quoth the King) let these mens complaint be thoroughly lookt into, and their grieffe redressed: for I account them in the number of my best Common-wealths men. As the Clergy for the soule, the Souldier for defence of his countrey, the Lawyer to execute iustice, the Husbandman to feede the belly: so is the skillfull Clothier no lesse necessary for the cloathing of the backe, whom we may reckon among the chiefe Women of our Land: and as the chrysell light of the eye is tenderly to be kept from harmes, because it giues the whole body light: so is the Clothiers whose cunning hand provides garments to defend our naked parts from the Winters nipping frost. Many more reasons there are, which may mooue vs to redreue their griefes, but let it suffice that I command to haue it done. With that, his Grace deliuered the Petition to the Lord Chancelloz, and all the Clothiers cried, God saue the King. But as the King was ready to depart, he suddenly turned about, saying, I remem-  
ber

## of Iacke of Newbery.

ber there is one Iacke of Newbery, I muse he had not his hand in this businesse, who profess himselfe to be a defender of true Labourers. Then said the Duke of Sommerset: It may be his purse is answerable for his person. Say (quoth the Lord Cardinall) all his treasure is little enough to maintaine warres against the butterflies. With that Iacke shew-  
ed himselfe vnto the King, and privately told his Grace of their grieue anew. To whom his Maiesty said: Give thy attendance at the Counsell Chamber, where thou shalt re-  
ceiue an answer to thy content. And so his Highnes departed. Finally it was agreed that the Merchants should freely traf-  
fique one with another, and that Proclamation thereof should be made as well on the other side the Sea, as in our Land: but it was long before this was effected, by reason the Car-  
dinall being Lord Chancello, put off the matter from time to time. And because the Clothiers thought it not best to depart before it was ended, they gaue their daily attendance at the Cardinalls house: but spent many dayes to no pur-  
pose: sometime they were answered, My Lord was busie, and could not be spoke withall: or else he was asleep, and they durst not wake him: or at his study, and they would not dis-  
turbe him: or at his prayers, and they durst not displease him: and still one thing or other stood in the way to hinder them. At last, Patch the Cardinals foole, being (by their of-  
ten repaire thither) well acquainted with the Clothiers, came vnto them and said: what, haue you not spoken with my Lord yet? So truly (quoth they) we heare say he is busie, and we stay till his grace be at leasure. Is it true, said Patch? and with that in all haste he went out of the hall, and at last came in againe with a great bundle of straw on his backe. Why how now Patch (quoth the Gentlemen) what wilt thou doe with that straw? Hary (quoth he) I will put it vnder these honest mens seete, lest they should freeze ere they finde my Lord at leasure. This made them all to laugh, and caused Patch to beare away his straw againe. Well, well, (quoth he) if it cost you a groats worth of saggots at night, blame not me. Trust me (said Iacke of Newbery) if my Lord

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Cardinalls father had been no hastier in killing of Calnes; than he is in dispatching of poor mens states, I doubt hee had neuer worne a Wyper. This he spake betwixt themselves softly, but yet not so softly, but that he was over-heard by a flattering fellow that stood by, who made it known to some of the Gentlemen, and they straight certified the Cardinall thereof.

The Cardinall (who was of a very high spirit, and a lofty aspiring minde) was marvellously displeased at lacke of Newbery: wherefore in his rage he commanded and sent the Clothiers all to prison, because the one of them should not sue for the others releasement. Fourte dayes lay these men in the Marshalsey, till at last they made their humble Petition to the King for their release: but some of the Cardinalls friends kept it from the kings sight. Notwithstanding, the Duke of Sommerset, knowing thereof, spake with the Lord Cardinall about the matter, wishing hee would speedily release them, lest it did breed him some displeasure: for you may perceiue (quoth the Duke) how highly the King esteemes men of that faculty. Sir, quoth the Cardinall, I doubt not but to answer their imprisonment well enough, being perswaded that none would haue giuen me such a quip but an Hereticke: and I dare warrant you, were this lacke of Newbery well examined, he would be found to be infected with Luthers spirit, against whom our King hath of late written a most leaueed Book, in respect whereof, the Popes holinesse hath intitled his Pateesty Defender of the Faith: therefore I tell you such fellows are fitter to be faggots for fire, than Fathers of Families: notwithstanding (at your Graces request) I will release them. Accordingly the Cardinall sent for the Clothiers afoze him to White hall, his new built house by Westminster, and there bestowing his blessing vpon them, said: Though you haue offended mee I pardon you; for as Steuen forgave his enemies that stoned him, and our Saniour those Anfull men that crucified him, so do I forgive you that high trespasse committed in disgrace of my birth: for herein do men come adrest vnto God, in shewing

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Shewing mercy and compassion. But ſee hereafter you ſend no more. Touching your ſute it is granted, and to morrow ſhall be publiſhed through London. This being ſaid they departed: and according to the Cardinals words, their buſineſſe was ended. The Stillpard Merchants toſull hereof, made the Clothiers a great banquet. After which, each man departed home, carrying tydings of their good ſucceſſe; ſo that within ſhort ſpace, Clothing was againe very good, and poore men as well ſet on worke as before.

### CHAP. VII.

How a young Italian Merchant comming to Iack of Newberies houſe, was greatly inamoured of one of his maidens, and how he was ſerued.

**A**Mong other ſervants which Iacke of Newbery kept, there was in his houſe threſcore maidens, which every Sunday waited on his wiſe to Church and home againe, who had diuers offices. Among other, two were appointed to keepe the beames and waights, to waigh out wooll to the Carders and Spinſters, and to receive it in againe by waight. One of them was a comely maiden, faire and lovely, bozne of wealthy Parents, and brought up in good qualities, her name was Ione, ſo it was, that a young wealthy Italian Merchant, comming oft from London thither to bargain for cloath (for at that time Clothiers moſt commonly had their cloath beſpoken, & halfe paid for afore-hand.) This Maſter Benedicke fell greatly inamoured of this maiden: and therefore offered much courteſie to her, beſtowing many gifts on her, which ſhe received thankſfully: and albeit his outward countenance ſhewed his inward affection, yet Ione would take no knowledge thereof. Halfe the day ſometime would he ſit by her, as ſhe was waighing wooll, often ſighing and ſobbing to himſelfe, yet ſaying nothing, as if he had been tongueleſſe, like the men of Coromandæ; and the loather to ſpeake, ſo that he could ſpeak  
but.

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but bad English. Ione on the other side that well perceived his passions, did as it were triumph ouer him, as one that were bondslane to her beauty, and although she knew well enough before that she was faire, yet did she neuer so highly esteeme of her selfe as at this present: so that when she heard him either sigh, or sob, or groan, she would turne her face in a carelesse sort, as if she had been borne (like the woman of Taprobana) without eares. When Master Benedicke saw she made no reckoning of his sorowes, at length he blabbered out this broken English, and spake to her in this sort. Metresse Ione, be me tra and fa, mee loue you woud all mine hart, and if you no shall loue me again, me know mee shall die, sweet Metresse loue a me, & be me fa & tra you sal lack noting. First, me wil giue you de silk for make you a Frog: Second, de fin fin Camree for make you ruffles, and de turd sal be for make fin hankersher, for wipe your nose. She mistaking his speech began to be collicricke, wishing him to keepe that bodkin to picke his teeth. Ho ho Metresse Ione (quoth he) be Got, you be angry. Oh Metresse Ione, bee no chafe wid you friene for noting. Good sir (quoth she) keepe your friendship for them that cares for it, and fire your loue on those that can like you. As for me I tell you plain, I am not minded to marry. Oh tis no matter for marrye, if you will come in my shamber, belhit my bed, and let me kisse you. The spaide though she were very much displeased, yet at these words, she could not forbear laughing for her life. Ah ah Metresse Ione: mee is very glad to see you merry, hole Metresse Ione, hole your liand I say, and dere is foure Crowne because you laugh on mee. I pray you Sir keepe your Crowns, for I need them not. Yes be Got you shal haue dem Metresse Ione, so keep in a poxe for you. She that could not well understand his broken language, mistooke his meaning in many things: and therfore willed him not to trouble her any more. Notwithstanding such was his loue toward her, that he could not forbear her company, but made many iourneyes thither for her sake. And as a certaine spring in Arcadia makes men to starme that drink of it:



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so did poze Bennedicke, feeding his fancy on her beauty: for when he was in London, he did nothing but sorrow, wishing he had wings like the monsters of Tartaria, that he might fly to and fro at his pleasure. When any of his friends did tell her of his ardent affection toward her, she wisht them to rub him with the sweat of a Spule, to assuage his amorous passion, or to fetch him some of the water in Boetia to cole & extinguishe the heate of his affection: for, quoth she, let him neuer hope to be helpt by me. Well, quoth they, before he saw thy alluring face, he was a man reasonable and wise, but is now a starke foole, being by thy beauty bereft of wit, as if he had drunk of the riuier Cea, & like bewitching Circes thou hast certainly transformed him from a man to an Ass. There are stones in Fortus, quoth they, that the deeper they be laid in the water, the fiercer they burn: vnto the which sond flowers may fitly be compared, who the more they be denied, the hotter is their desire: but seeing it is so, that he can find no fauour at your hand, we will shew him what you haue said, and either drive him from his dumps, or leaue him to his owne will. Then spake one of the Weauers that dwelt in the Colone, and was a kinsman to this maid. I must quoth he that master Bennedicke will not be perswaded, but like the Spouth, will play with the flame that will scorche his wings. He thinks, he should learne to loue, or learne to speake, or else too such as can answer him in his language: for I tell you, that Ione my kinswoman, is no taste for an Italian. These speeches were told to Bennedicke with no small addition. When our young merchant heard the matter so plaine, he vowed to be reuenged on the weauer, and to see if he could finde any more friendship of his wife: therefore dissembling his sorrow and couering his griefe, with speede he tooke his journey to Newbery, and pleasantly salutes Mistress Ione: and hauing his purse full of crownes; he was very liberall to the woosholkes, especially to Iones kinsman, in so much that he got his fauour many times to goe forth with him, promising him very largely to doe great matters, and to lend him a hundred pound, wishing him to be a seruant no longer

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longer, beside he liberally bestowed on his wife many gifts, and if he wast him but a hand, he would giue her an Angel: if he did but lend her child for a quart of Wine, he would giue him a Shilling for his paines. The which his courtesie changed the Weauers minde, saying he was a very honest Gentleman, and worthy to haue one farre better than his kinswoman.

This pleased master Bennedick well to heare him say so, notwithstanding he made light of the matter, and many times when the Weauer was at his Masters at worke, the Merchant would be at home with his wife, drinking and making merry. At length time byinging acquaintance, and often conference breeding familiarity, master Bennedick began somewhat boldly to test with Gillian, saying that her sight and sweet countenance, had quite reclaýmed his loue from lone, and that she onely was the mistress of his heart: and if she would lend him her loue, he would giue her gold from Arabia, orient pearles from India, and make her bracelets of most precious Diamonds. Thy garments shall be of the finest silke that is made in Venice, and thy purse shall fill be stuffed with Angells. Tell me thy minde my loue, and kill me not with unkindnesse, as did thy scornfull kinswoman, whose disdaine had almost cost me my life. O master Bennedicke, thinke not the wines of England can be won by rewards, or enticed with sayre words, as children are with Plums: It may be that you being merrily disposed, do speak this to try my constancy. Know then, that I esteeme more the honour of my good name, than the sliding wealth of the world. Master Bennedick hearing her say so, desired her, that considering it was loue that forced his tongue to betwix his hearts ardent affection, that yet she would be secret: and so so; that time toke his leaue. When he was gone, the woman began to call her wits together, and to consider of her poore estate, and withall the better to note the comeliness of her person, and the sweet fauour of her face: which when she had well thought vpon, she began to harbour new thoughts, and to entertain contrary affections, saying, Shall I content my

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my selfe to be waapt in shepes rasset that may stoin in mks,  
 & sit all day carding for a groat, that can haue crowones at my  
 command: So, quoth she, I will no more beare so base a  
 minde, but take fortunes sauiours while they may be had.  
 The sweet Rose doth flourish but one moneth, no; Womens  
 beauties but in yong yeares: As the Winters frost con-  
 sumes the Summer flowers, so doth old age banish pleasant  
 delight. O glorious gold, quoth she, how sweet is thy smell,  
 how pleasing is thy sight: Thou subduest Princes, and o-  
 uerthrowest kingdomes, then how should I a silly woman  
 withstand thy strength: Thus she rested meditating on pre-  
 serment, purposing to hazard her honesty to maintaine her  
 selfe in banery: euen as occupiers corrupt their consciences  
 to gather riches. Within a day or two master Bennedicke  
 came to her againe, on whom she cast a smiling countenance:  
 which he perceiuing (according to his old custome) sent for  
 Wine, and very merry they were. At last, in the midst of  
 their cups, he cast out his former question: and after farther  
 conference, she yielded, and appointed a time when he should  
 come to her: so; which fauour, he gaue her halfe a dozen por-  
 tignes. Within an houre or two after, entring into her own  
 conscience, bethinking how shamefully she had sold her selfe;  
 to folly, began thus to expostulate. Good Lord, quoth she,  
 shall I break that holy bowe which I made in marriage, and  
 pollute this body of mine which the Lord hath sanctified: Can  
 I break the commandement of my God, and not rest accus-  
 sed: or be a traytor to my husband, & suffer no shame: I heard  
 once my brother read in a booke, that Bucephalus, Alexanders  
 Steed, being a beast, would not be backt by any but the Em-  
 perour, and shall I consent to any but my husband: Artemi-  
 sa being a Heathen Lady, loued her husband so well, that she  
 buried him in his ashes, and buried him in her own bowels, and  
 should I being a Christian, cast my Husband out of my  
 heart: the Women of Rome were wont to crowne  
 their Husbonds heads with Bayes, in token of victory;  
 and shall I giue my husband hoznes in token of infamy:  
 An Harlot is hated of all vertuous minded people, and shall I

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make my selfe a Whore: O my God forgive my sin, quoth she, and cleanse my heart from these wicked imaginations. And as she was thus lamenting, her husband came home: at whose sight her teares were doubled, like unto a river whose stream is encreased by showers of raine. Her husband seeing this, would needs know the cause of her sorrow: but a great while she would not shew him, casting many a piteous looke upon him, and shaking her head: at last she said, O my deare husband, I haue offended against God and thee, and made such a trespasse by my tongue, as hath cut a deep scarre in my conscience, and wounded my heart with griefe like a sword: like Penelope so haue I been wooed: but like Penelope I haue not answered. Why woman, quoth he, what is the matter? If it be but the bare offence of thy tongue, why shouldst thou so grieue: considering that womens tongues are like Lambs tayles, which seldome stand still: And the wise man saith, where much talke is, must needs be some offence. Womens beauties are faire marks for wandring eyes to steele at: but as euery Archer hits not the white, so euery Wooer winnes not his mistresse fauour. All Cities that are besieged are not sacked, no; all women to be midlikt that are loued. Why wife, I am perswaded thy faith is more firme, and thy constancy greater to withstand Louers alarms, than that any other but my selfe should obtaine the fortresse of thy heart. O sweet husband (quoth she) we see the Iron yest Tower at length falleth downe by the Canons force, though the bullets be but Iron: then how can the weake Bulwarke of a womans breast make resistance, when the hot Canons of deepe perswading words are shotte off with golden bullets, and euery one as big as a Paxtigue? If it be so wise, I may think my selfe in a good case, and you to be a very honest woman. As Mars and Venus dance naked together in a Act, so I doubt, you and some knane haue played naked together in a bed: but in saith thou quean, I will send thee to salute thy friends without a Gole: and as thou hast sold thy honesty, so will I sell thy company. Swaete Husband, though I haue promised, I haue performed nothing

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thing: every bargain is not effected, and therefore as Iudas brought again the thirty silver plates, so: the which he betrayed his Master: so repenting my folly, He cast him againe his gold, so: which I should haue wronged my Husband. Tell me, quoth her husband, what he is. It is master Bennedicke, quoth she, which sa: my loue hath lest the loue of our kinswoman, and hath vowed himselfe for euer to like my seruant. A dissembling Italian, quoth he, I will be reuenged on him for this wrong. I know that any fauour from Ioue our kinswoman, will make him runne like vnto a man bitten with a mad dogge: therefore he ruled by me, and thou shalt see me dress him in his kinde. The woman was very well pleased, saying, he would be there that night. All this works well with me, quoth her husband, and to supper will I inuite Ioue my kinswoman, and in the mean space make vp the bed in the Parlour very decently. So the Goodman went forth, and got a sleepe drench from the Apothecaries, the which he gaue to a young Soto, which he had in his yard, and in the evening laid her downe in the bed in the Parlour, drawing the Curtains round about. Supper time being come, master Bennedicke gaue his attendance looking for no other company but the goodwife: notwithstanding at the last mistresse Ioue came in with her kinsman, and late vnto me to Supper with him. Master Bennedicke musing at their sudden approach, yet neuerthelesse glad of mistresse Ioues company, past the supper time with many pleasant conceits, Ioue shewing her selfe that night moze pleasant in his company than at any time before: wherefore he gaue the Goodman great thanks. Good master Bennedicke, little do you think how I haue travelled in your behalfe to my kinswoman, and very much adoe I had to bring the penit. Went into any good liking of your loue: notwithstanding by my very great diligence and perswasions, I haue at length won her good will to come hither, little thinking to finde you here, or any such good shere to entertain her: all which I see is fallen out for your profit. But trust me, all the world cannot wold alter her minde, nor turne her loye from you: In regard whereof, she

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hath promised me to lye this night in my house, for the great desire the hath of your good company : and in requitall of all your great courtesies shewed to me, I am very well content to bring you to her bed. Herry this you must consider, and so she bad me tell you, that you should come to bed with as little noyse as you could, and tumble nothing that you find, for fear of her best gowne and her hat, which she will lay hard by the bed side, next her best partlet, and in so doing, you may haue company with her all night, but say nothing in any case till you be a bed : O quoth he, Mater Ian, be Got Mater Ian, me will no spoile her clodes for a towzan poun, ah mee loue metressa Ione more den me veife. Well, supper being done, they rose from the table. Master Bennedick imbracing mistresse Ione, thankt her for her great courtesie and company, and then the good man and he walkt into the Town, and Ione hyed her home to her masters, knowing nothing of the intended iest. Master Bennedicke thought euery houre twaine, till the Sun was downe, and that he were a bed with his beloued. At last he had his wish, and home he came to his friends house. Then said Iohn, master Bennedick you must not in any case haue a candle when you go into the chamber, for then my kinswoman will be angry, and darke places fits best Louers desires : O mater Ian, quoth he, its no sush matter for light, me shall find metressa Ione will enough in de darke. And entring in at the parlour, groping about, he felt a gowne and hat. O metressa Ione (quoth he) here is your gowne and hat, mee fall no hurt for a towzan poun. Then kneeling downe by the bed side, in steade of mistresse Ione, he saluted the tow in this sort. O my loue and my delight, it is thy faire face that hath wounded my heart, thy gray sparkling eyes, and thy Lilly white hands, with the comely proportion of thy pretty body, that made me in seeking thee to forget my selfe, & to finde thy fauour, lose my owne freedom : but now is the time come wherein I shall reape the fruits of a plentiful harvest. Now my deare, from thy sweet mouth let me suck the hony balme of thy breath, and with my hand stroke those Rose cheekes of thine, wherein I haue tooke such pleasure.

Come

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Come with thy pretty lips & entertain me into thy bed with one gentle kisse: Why speakest thou not my sweete heart, and stretch out thy Alablaster armes to infold thy faithfull friend: Why should ill pleasing sleepe close vp the chynfall windowes of thy body so fast, and bereaue thee of thy fine Lordly attendants wherewith thou wast wont to salute thy friends: let it not offend thy gentle eares that I thus talk to thee. If thou hast bolued not to speake, I will not break it: and if thou wilt command me to be silent, I will be dumbe: but thou needest not feare to speak thy minde, seeing the clowdy night concealeth euery thing. By this time master Benedicke was wready, and slept into bed, where the Sow lay stretched in a sherte, & her head bound in a great linnen cloath: As soone as he was laid, he began to embrace his new bedfellow, and laying his lips somewhat nere her snout, he felt her draw her breath very thort. Why how now loue (quoth he) be you shick, be Got metressa Ione your breat be fery strong: haue you no cacke a bed? The Sow feeling her selfe disturbed, began to grunt and heepe a great stirre: whereat master Benedick (like a mad man) ran out of the bed, crying, de deuil de deuil. The good man of the house (being purposely prouided) came rushing in with halfe a dozen of his neighbours, asking what was the matter. Got ound (quoth Bennedicke) here be de great deuil, cry hoh, hoh, hoh, be Gossen I tinke you play de knafes wid me, and me wil be reuenge be Got. Sir, quoth he, I knowing you loved mutton, thought perhe nothing vnfit: & therfore prouided you a whole Sow, and as you like this entertainment, spend Portugues. Walke, walke, Barkeshire maides will be no Italians trumpets, nor the wines of Newbery their bands, Barkeshire dog (quoth Benedick) owle face shack, hang dou and dy veife, haue it no be for my loue to sweete metressa Ione, I will no come in you hous: but farewell tell I cash you, be Goz bode, I make your hog nose bud: The good man and his neighbours laught aloud, away went master Benedick, and for very shame departed from Newbery before day.



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### CHAP. VIII.

How Iacke of Newbery keeping a very good house, both for his seruants and reliefe of the poore, won great credite thereby: and how one of his wiues gossips found fault therewith.

**G**OD morrow good Gossip: Now by my truly I am glad to see you in health. I pray you how doth master Winchcombe? What neuer a great belly yet? now he: by my sa your husband is wast idle. Trust me Gossip, saith mistresse Winchcombe, a great belly comes sooner than a new coate: but you must consider we haue not ben long married. But truly Gossip you are welcome: I pray you to sit down, and we will haue a morzell of something by and by. Nay truly gossip, I cannot stay, quoth she, in troth I must be gone: for I did but euen step in to see how you did. You shall not chuse but stay a while, quoth mistresse Winchcomb: and with that a fair naphkin was laid vpon the little table in the Parlour, hard by the fire side, whereon was set a good cold Capon, with a great deale of other good chere, with ale and wine plenty: I pray you good gossip eate, and I bespew you if you spare, quoth she one. I thanke you heartily god gossip, saith the other. But good gossip I pray you tell me: doth your husband loue you well, and make much of you: yes truly. I thank God quoth she: now by my troth, said the other, it were a shame for him if he should not: for though I say it before your face, though hee had little with you, you were worthy to be as good a mans wife as his. Trust me, I would not change my Iohn for my Lord Marquesse, quoth she, a woman can be but well, for I lue at hart's ease, & haue all things at will, & truly he will not see me lack anything. Mary Gods blessing on his heart, quoth her gossip, it is god hearing: but I pray you tell me, I heare say, your husband is chosen for our Burgesse in the Parliament house, is it true: Yes verily, quoth his wife. I wis it is against his will: for it will be no small charges to him. Trust woman, what talke you of that: thanks be to  
God



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God, there is neuer a Gentlewoman in all Barkshire that is better able to beare it. But heare you, Gossip, shall I be so bold to aske you one question more? Yes, with all my heart, quoth she. I heard say that your husband would now put you in your hood and like gowne, I pray you is it true? Yes in truth, quoth mistresse Winchcombe, but far against my minde Gossip: my french-hood is bought already, and my like gowne is a making: likewise the Goldsmith hath brought home my chaine and bracelets: but I assure you gossip, if you will beleeue me, I had rather goe an hundred miles, than weare them: for I shall be so ashamed that I shall not looke vpon any of my neighbours for blushing. And why, I pray you, quoth her Gossip? I tell you deare woman, you neede not be any thing abashed or blush at the matter, especially seeing your husbands estate is able to maintaine it: now trust me truly, I am of opinion you will become it singular well. Alas, quoth mistresse Winchcombe, hauing neuer bene vsed to such attyre, I shall not know where I am, nor how to behaue my selfe in it: and besides, my complexion is so blacke, that I shall carry but an ill favoured countenance vnder a hood. Now, without doubt (quoth her Gossip) you are too blame to say so: beshrew my heart if I speak it to flatter, you are a very faire and well favoured young woman, as any is in Newbery. And neuer feare your behaviour in your hood: for I tell you true, as old and withered as I am my selfe, I could become a hood well enough, and behaue my selfe as well in such attyre, as any other whatsoeuer, and I would not learne of neuer a one of them all: what woman I, haue been a pretty wench in my dayes, and scene some fashions. Therefore you need not to feare, seeing both your beauty and comely personage deserves no lesse than a french-hood: and be of good comfort. At the first (possible) folkes will gaze something at you: but bee not you abashed for that, it is better they should wonder at your good fortune, than lament at your misery: but when they haue scene you two or three times in this attyre, they will afterward little respect it: for every new thing at the first

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Is me's rare, but being once a little vsed, it growes common. Surely Gossip you say true, (quoth she) and I am but a foole to be so bashfull: it is no shame to vse Gods gifts for our credits, and well might my husband thinke me vnworthy to haue them if I would not weare them: and though I say it my hood is a faire one, as any woman weares in this Countrey, and my gold chaine and bracelets are none of the worst sort, and I will shew them you, because you shall giue your opinion vpon them: and therewithall she kept into her chamber, and fetcht them forth. When her Gossip saw them, she said, now bestow my fingers but these are faire ones indeede. And when do you meane to weare them Gossip? At Whitson-tide (quoth she) if God spare me life. I wish that well you may weare them, said her Gossip, and I would I were worthy to be with you when you bestow your selfe, it should be neuer the worse for you. I would order the matter so, that you should set euery thing about you in such sort, as neuer a Gentlewoman of them all should stain you. Mistress Winchcombe gaue her great thanks for her favour, saying, that if she needed her helpe, she would be bold to send for her.

Then began her Gossip to turne her tongue to another True, and now to blame her for her great house keeping. And thus she began: Gossip, you are but a young woman, and one that hath had no great experience of the World, in my opinion you are something too lauish in expences: pardon me good Gossip, I speak but for good will, and because I loue you, I am the more bold to admonish you: I tell you plaine, were I the mistress of such a house, hauing such large allowance as you haue, I would saue 20. pound a yeare that you spend to no purpose. Which way might that be (quoth Mistress Winchcombe?) indeed I confesse I am but a greene huswife, and one that hath had but small triall in the World, therefore I would be very glad to learne any thing that were for my husbands profit and my commodity. Then listen to me, quoth she: you see your folkes with the best of the beefe, and the finest of the wheate, which in my opinion

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nton is a great oversight : neither do I heare of any Knight  
 in this country that doth it. And to say the truth, how were  
 they able to beare that port which they doe, if they saued it  
 not by some meanes : Come thither, and I warrant you that  
 you shall see but browne bread on the boord : if it be wheate  
 and rye mingled together, it is a great matter, and the bread  
 highly commended : but most commonly they eate either  
 barley bread, or rye mingled with pease, and such like coarse  
 graine : which is doubtlesse but of small price, and there is no  
 other bread allowed, except at their owne boord. And in like  
 manner for their meate : it is well known, that neckes and  
 points of beefe is their ordinary fare : which because it is  
 commonly leane, they seth therewith now and then a peece  
 of bacon or pork, whereby they make their pottage fat, and  
 therewith drines out the rest with more content. And thus  
 must you learne to doe. And beside, that the middriffes of the  
 Oxen, and the cheekes, the sheepes heads, and the gathers,  
 which you give away at your gate, might serue them well  
 enough : which would be a great sparing to your other meate,  
 and by this meanes you would saue in the yeare much mo-  
 ny, whereby you might the better maintaine your hood and  
 like gowne. Again, you serue your folkes with such su-  
 persutities, that they spoyle in a manner as much as they  
 eate : tell me, were I their Dame, they should haue  
 things more sparingly, and then they would thinke it more  
 dainty. Trust me Gossip (quoth mistresse Winchcomb)  
 I know your words in many things to be true : for my  
 folkes are so corne fed, that we haue much adoe to please  
 them in their dyet : one doth say this is too salt, and another  
 saith this is too grosse, this is too fresh, and that too fat, and  
 twenty faults they will finde at their meales : I warrant  
 you they make such parings of their cheefe, and keepe  
 such chipping of their bread, that their very eyes would  
 serue two or three honest folkes to their dinner. And  
 from whence I pray you proceedes that (quoth her Gos-  
 sip) but of too much plenty : but vsaith were they my  
 seruants, I would make them glad of the worst crummes

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they cast away, and therupon I drinke to you, and I thank you for my good chere with all my heart. Such good may it do you good gossip, said mistresse Winchcomb: and I pray you when you come this way, let vs see you. That you shall verily, quoth she, and so away she went.

After this, mistresse Winchcombe toke occasion to giue her folks shorter commons, and courser meate than they were wont to haue: which at length being come to the good mans eare, he was very much offended therewith, saying: I will not haue my people thus pincht of their victualls. Empty platters makes greedy stomacks, and where scarcity is kept, hunger is nourished: and therefore wife as you loue me, let me haue no more of this doings. Husband (quoth she) I would they should haue enough: but it is kinne to suffer, and a shame to see the spople they make: I could be very well content to giue them their bellies full, and that which is sufficient, but it grieues me, to tell you trus, to see how coy they are, and the small care they haue in wastling of things: and I assure you, the whole Towne cries shame of it, and it hath byed me no small discredit so: looking no better to it. Trust me no more, if I was not checkt in my own house about this matter, when my eares did burne to heare what was spoken. Who was it that checkt thee? I pray thee tell me: was it not your old gossip dame dainty, mistresse trip and goe? I beleue it was. Why man if it were she, you know she hath bene an old house-keeper, and one that hath knowen the world, and that she told me was for good will. Wife (quoth he) I would not haue thee to meddle with such light braind huswives, and so I haue told thee a good many times, and yet I cannot get you to leaue her company. Leane her company? why husband, so long as she is an honest woman, why should I leaue her company? She neuer gaue me hurtfull counsell in all her life, but hath alwayes bene ready to tell me things for my profit, though you take it not so. Leane her company? I am no gyler I would you should well know, to be taught what company I should keepe: I keepe none but house company, I warrant you, Leane her

com:

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company ketha : Alas poore soule, this reward she hath for her good will. I wis, I wis. she is moze your friend, than you are your owne. Well, let her be what she will, said her husband : but if she come any moze in my house, she were as good no. And therfore take this for a warning, I would aduise you: and so away he went.

### CHAP. IX.

How a Draper in London, who owed Iacke of Newbery much money, became bankrout, whom Iack of Newbery found carrying a porters basket on his neck, and how he set him vp againe at his owne cost, which Draper afterward became an Alderman of London.

**T**here was one Randoll Pert a Draper, dwelling in Watling-streete, that owed Iacke of Newbery fve hundred pounds at one time, who in the end fell greatly to decay, in so much that he was cast in prison, and his wife with her poore children turned out of doores. All his creditors except Winchombe had a share of his goods, neuer releasing him out of prison, so long as he had one penny to satisfy them. But when this tidings was brought to Iack of Newberies eare, his friends counselled him to lay his action against him. Ray (quoth he) if he be not able to pay me when he is at liberty, he will neuer be able to pay me in prison: and therfore it were as good for me to forbear my mony without troubling him, as to adde moze sorrow to his grieved heart, and be neuer the nêrer. Pilery is troden down of many, and once brought low, they are seldome or neuer relieved: therefore he shall rest for me vntoucht, and I would to God he were clere of all other mens debts, so that I gaue him mine to begin the world again. Thus lay the poore Draper a long time in prison, in which space, his Wife which befoze for daintynesse would not soule her fingers, nor turne her head aske, for feare of hurting the set of her neckenger, was glad to goe about and wash buckes at the Thames side,

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and to be a chare-woman in rich mens houses; her soft hand was now hardened with scouring, and in stead of gold rings vpon her lilly fingers, they were now filld with chaps, prouoked by the sharpe lée, and other vndergeries. At last, Master Winchcombe being (as you heard) chosen against the Parliament a Burgesse for the towne of Newberie, and comming vp to London for the same purpose, when he was alighted at his Inne, he left one of his men there, to get a Porter to bring his trunk vp to the place of his lodging. More Randoll Pert, which lately before was come out of prison, hauing no other meanes of maintenance, became a Porter to carry burthens from one place to another, hauing an old ragged doublet, and a some paire of breeches, with his hose out at the heeles, and a paire of old broken slip shoes on his feet, a rope about his middle in stead of a girdle, and on his head an old greasie cap, which had so many holes in it that his haire shewed through it: who as soon as he heard one call for a Porter, made answer straight: here master, what is it that you would haue carried? Harry (quoth he) I would haue this Trunke borne to the spread Eagle at Iurbidge. You shall Master (quoth he :) but what will you giue me for my paines? I will giue thee two pence. A penny more and I will carry it, said the Porter: and so being agreed, away he went with his burthen, till he came to the spread Eagle doore, where on a sudden spying Master Winchcombe standing, he cast downe the Trunke, and ran away as hard as ever he could. Master Winchcombe wondering what he meant thereby, caused his man to runne after him, and to fetch him againe: but when he saw one pursue him, he ranne then the faster; and in running, here he lost one of his slip shoes, and there another: euer looking behinde him, like a man pursued with a deadly weapon, fearing euery twinkling of an eye to be thrust thorow. At last his breech, being tied but with one point, what with the haste he made, and the weakenesse of the thong, fell about his heeles: which so hackled him, that downe he fell in the stræte all along, sweating and blowing,

## of lacke of Newbery.

blowing, being quite woꝛne cut of breath: and so by this meanes the Seruing-man ouertooke him, and taking him by the ſleeue, being as windleſſe as the other, ſtood blowing and puffing a great while ere they could ſpeake one to another. Sirrah, quoth the Seruing-man, you muſt come to my Maſter, you haue broken his Trunke all to peeces, by letting it fall. O ſo? Gods ſake (quoth he) let me goe, ſo? Chriſts ſake let me goe, o? elſe Maſter Winchbombe of Newbery will arreſt me, and then I am vndone ſo? euer. Now by this time lacke of Newbery had cauſed his Trunke to be carried into the houſe, and then he walked along to know what the matter was: but when he heard the Porter ſay that he would arreſt him, he wondered greatly, and hauing quite forgot Perts fauour, being ſo greatly changed by imprisonment and povertie, he ſaid. Wherefore ſhould I arreſt thee? tell me god fellow: ſo? my owne part I know no reaſon ſo? it. O Sir (quoth he) I would to God I knew nene neyther. Then aſking him what his name was: the poore man falling downe on his knees, ſaid: Good Maſter Winchcombe beare with me and caſt me not into priſon: my name is Pert, and I do not deny but that I owe you five hundred pound: yet ſo? the loue of God take pittie vpon me. When Maſter Winchcombe heard this, he wondered greatly at the man, and did as much pittie his miſery, though as yet he made it not known, ſaying: Paſſion of my heart man, thou wilt neuer pay me this: neuer thinke being a Porter to pay five hundred pound debt. But this hath your prodigall ty brought you to, your chriſtleſſe neglecting of your buſineſſe, that let more by your pleaſure than your profit. Then looking better vpon him, he ſaid: What neuer a ſhoe to thy ſhoete, hoſe to thy legge, band to thy necke, no: cap to thy head? O Pert, this is ſtrange: but wilt thou be an honeſt man, & giue me a bil of thy hand ſo? my mony? Yes ſir, with all my heart, quoth Pert. Then came to the Scriveners, quoth he, and diſpatch it, and I will not trouble thee. Now when they were come thither, with a great many following them at their heeles:



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heles, master Winchcombe said: Hearest thou Scribe-ner? this fellow must giue me a bill of his hand: so: five hundred pounds. I pray thee make it as it should be. The Scribe-ner looking vpon the pooze man, and seeing him in that case, said to master Winchcombe: Sir, you were better to let it be a Bond, and haue some sureties bound with him. Why Scribe-ner (quoth he) dost thou thinke this is not a sufficient man of himselfe so: five hundred pound? Cruely Sir (said the Scribe-ner) if you thinke him so, you and I are of two mindes: He tell thee what (quoth master Winchcomb) were it not that we are all mortall, I would take his word as sone as his Will or Bond; the honesty of a man is all. And we in London (quoth the Scribe-ner) doe trust Bonds farre better than honesty. But Sir, when must this money be paid? Harry Scribe-ner, when this man is Sheriffe of London. At that word the Scribe-ner and the people standing by laughed heartily, saying: In truth Sir, make no more ado but forgive it him: as good to doe the one as the other. Nay, beloeue me (quoth he) not so: therefore do as I bid you. Whereupon the Scribe-ner made the Will to be paid when Randoll Pert was Sheriffe of London, and thereunto set his owne hand so: a witnesse, and twenty persons more that stood by, set to their hands likewise. Then he asked Pert what he should haue so: carrying his Trunk. Sir, quoth he, I should haue thre pence, but seeing I finde you so kinde, I will take but two pence at this time. Thanks god Pert, quoth he, but so: thy thre pence, there is thre shillings: and looke thou come to me to morrow morning betimes. The pooze man did so, at what time master Winchcombe had prouided him out of Birchm-lane, a faire sute of apparel, Merchant like, with a faire blacke cloak, and all other things fit to the same: then he tooke him a shop in Canweck streete, and furnisht the same shop with a thousand pounds worth of cloath: by which meanes, and other fauours that master Winchcombe did him, he grew againe into great credit, and in the end became so wealthy, that whilst ma-  
ster



## of Iacke of Newbery.

After Winchcombe liued he was chosen Sheriffe; at what time he payed ffor hundred pounds enery penny, and after be-  
 ed an Alderman of the City.

### CHAP. X.

How Iacke of Newberies seruants were reuenged of their  
 Dames tattling Gossip.

**V**Pon a time it came to passe, when master Winch-  
 combe was farre from home, and his wife gone a-  
 broad: That misstris many better, dame tittle,tattle,  
 Gossip pintpot, according to her old custome came  
 to misstris Winchcombes house, perfectly knowing of the  
 godmans absence, and little thinking the god wife was  
 from home: where knocking at the gate, Tweedle slept out  
 and askt who was there: where hastily opening the win-  
 ket, he suddainly discovered the full proportion of this soule  
 beast, who demanded if their misstris were within. What  
 misstris Franke (quoth he) in faith welcome: how haue you  
 done agreat while: I pray you come in. Nay, I cannot stay,  
 quoth she: notwithstanding, I did call to speake a word  
 or two with your misstris, I pray you tell her that I am  
 here. So I will (quoth he) so sone as she comes in. Then  
 said the woman, what is she abroad: Why then farewell  
 god Tweedle: why what haste, what haste: misstris Franke,  
 (quoth he) I pray you stay and drink ere you goe, I hope a  
 cuppe of new Sacke will do your old belly no hurt: what  
 (quoth she) haue you new Sacke already: Now by my  
 honesty I drinke none this yeare, and therefore I doe not  
 greatly care if I take a taste before I goe: and with that she  
 went into the wine-cellar with Tweedle, where first he set  
 before her a peece of powdered beefe as greene as a lake: And  
 then going into the kitchen, he brought her a peece of roasted  
 beefe hot from the spit. Now certaine of the maidens of  
 the house, and some of the young men, who had long before

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determined to be reuenged of this prattling huswife; came into the Cellar one after another, one of them bringing a great piece of a gammon of Bacon in his hand, and every one bad mistress Franke welcome: and first one drunke to her, and then another, and so the third, the fourth, and the fift: so that mistress Frankes baines wert as mellow as a Pippin at Michaelmas, and so light, that sitting in the Cellar, she thought the world ran round. They seeing her to fall into merry humours, whetted her on in merriment as much as they could, saying, Mistress Franke, spare not I pray you, but thinke your selfe as welcome as any woman in all Newbery, for we haue cause to loue you, because you loue our Mistress so well. Now by my troth (quoth she, lipping in her speech; her tongue waring somewhat too big for her mouth) I loue your Mistress well indeed, as if she were mine owne daughter. Nay but heare you, quoth they, she begins not to deale well with vs now. Now my Lambs, quoth she, why so? Because, quoth they, she seeks to barre vs of our allowance, telling our Master, that he spends too much in house-keeping. Nay then (quoth she) your Mistress is both an Ass, and a Fole: and though she go in her Hood, what care I: she is but a gyle to me: Twittle twattle, I know what I know: Go to, drinke to me. Well Tweedle, I drinke to thee with all my heart: why thou horseon, when wilt thou be married? What I were a young wench for thy sake: but tis no matter, though I be but a poore woman, I am a true woman. Hang dogs, I haue dwelt in this towne these thirty winters. Why then, quoth they, you haue dwelt here longer than our Master. Your Master, quoth she: I knew your Master a boy, when he was cald lacke of Newbery, I lacke, I knew him cald plaine lacke: and your Mistress, now she is rich and I am poore, but tis no matter, I knew her a draggie saple gyle, marke pee: But now, quoth they, she takes vp on her lustily, and hath quite forgot what she was. Tush, what will you haue of a green thing, quoth she: Were I drinke to you, so long as she goes where she list a gossiping: and its

## of lacke of Newbery.

no matter, little said is soone amended: But heare you my  
 masters, though mistress Winchcombe goe in her Hood, I  
 am as good as she, I care not who tell it her: I spend not  
 my husbands money in Cherries and Codlings, go to, go to,  
 I know what I say well enough: I thanke God I am not  
 drunke: Mistress Winchcomb, mistress: So, Nan Winch-  
 combe, I will call her name, plaine Nan: what, I was a  
 woman when she was six-reuerence a paltry gille, though  
 now she goes in her Hood and Chaine of Gold: what care I  
 for her: I am her elder, and I know more of her trickes: nay  
 I warrant you, I know what I say, tis no matter, laugh at  
 me and spare not, I am not drunke I warrant: and with that  
 being scant able to hold open her eyes, she beganne to nodde,  
 and to spill the Wine out of the Glasse: which they percei-  
 uing, let her alone, going out of the Cellar till she was found  
 asleepe, and in the meane space they deuised how to finish  
 this peece of knauery. At last they all consented to lay her  
 forth at the backe side of the house, halfe a mile off, euen at  
 the foote of a Style, that whosoever came next ouer, might  
 see her: notwithstanding, Tweedle stayed hard by to see  
 the end of this Action. At last comes a notable Clowne from  
 Greencham, taking his way to Newbery: who comming  
 hastily ouer the Style, stumbled at the woman, and fell down  
 cleane ouer her. But in his starting vp, seeing it was a wo-  
 man, cryed out, Alas, alas. How now, what is the matter,  
 quoth Tweedle? O, quoth he, here lies a dead woman. A  
 dead woman, quoth Tweedle, that's not so I trow, and with  
 that he tumbled her about: bones of me (quoth Tweedle) 'tis  
 a drunken woman, and one of the Clowne undoubtedly:  
 in troth it is great pity she should lye here. Why doe you  
 know her quoth the Clowne? So not I, quoth Tweedle,  
 neuertheless, I will giue thee halfe a groate, and take her  
 in thy Basket, and carry her throughout the Towne, and  
 see if any body know her. Then said the other, let me see the  
 money, and I will: For by the Masse, she earnd not halfe a  
 groat this great while. There it is, quoth Tweedle: then the

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fellow put her in his Basket, and so lifted her upon his back.  
 Now by the Masse she stinkes vilely of Drinke, or Wine,  
 or some thing. But tell me, what shall I say when I come  
 into the Towne, quoth he? First, quoth Tweedle, I would  
 haue thee so soone as euer thou canst get to the Townes end,  
 with a lusty voyce to cry, O yes, and then say, Who  
 knowes this woman, who? And though possible some will  
 say, I know her, and I know her, yet doe not thou let her  
 downe till thou comest to the Market Crosse, and there  
 vse the like words: and if any be so friendly, to tell thee  
 where she dwels, then iust before her doore cry so againe:  
 and if thou performe this brauely, I will giue thee halfe a  
 groat more. After Tweedle (quoth he) I know you well  
 enough, you dwell with master Winchcombe, do you not?  
 I saith if I doe it not in the nicke, giue me neuer a penny:  
 And so away he went, till he came to the Townes end,  
 and there he cries out as boldly as any Baplistes man, O  
 yes, who knowes this woman, who? Then said the drunken  
 woman in the Basket, her head falling first on one side, and  
 then on the other side, Who co mee, who? Then said he  
 againe, Who knowes this woman, who? Who co mee,  
 who, quoth she? and looke how oft he spoke the one, she  
 spoke the other: saying still, Who co me, who co me, who?  
 Whereat all the people in the street fell into such a laugh-  
 ter, that the teares ranne downe againe. At last one made  
 answer, saying: Good fellow, she dwels in the North brooke  
 street, a little beyond Master Winchcombes. The fellow  
 hearing that, goes downe thither in all haste, and there in  
 the hearing of a hundred people, cries, Who knowes this  
 woman, who? Whereat her husband comes out, saying:  
 Harry that doe I too well, God helpe me. Then said the  
 Clowne, If you know her, take her: for I know her not  
 but for a drunken beast. And as her husband tooke her  
 out of the Basket, he gave him a sound boxe on the eare,  
 saying, What you Queanes, doe you mocke mee? and  
 so was carried in. But the next day, when her haire  
was

## of Iacke of Newbery.

was quiet, and her head cleared of these foggy vapours, she was so ashamed of her selfe, that she went not forth of her doores a long time after: and if any body did say vnto her, Who co me, who? she would be so mad and furious, that she would be ready to draw her knife and sticke them, and scold, as if she strone for the best game at the cuckingstole. Moreover, her prating to mistresse Winchcombes folks of their mistresse, made her on the other side to fall out with her, in such sort, that she troubled them no more, eyther with her company or her counsell,

### CHAP. XI.

How one of Iacke of Newberies maides  
became a Lady.



**A**t the winning of Morlesse in France, the noble Earle of Surrey being at that time Lord high Admirall of England, made many Knights: among the rest was Sir George Rigley, brother to Sir Edward Rigley, and sundry other, whose valours farre surpassed their wealth: so that when peace bred a scarcity in their purse, and that their credits grew weake in the City, they were enforced to ride into the Country, where at their friends houses they might haue sauourable welcome, without coyne or grudging. Among the rest, Iacke of Newbery that kept a table for all comers, was neuer lightly without many such guests: where they were sure to haue both welcome and good cheare, and their mirth no lesse pleasing than their meate was plenty. Sir George hauing lpen long at board in this brave Peomans house, at length fell in liking of one of his maidens, who was as fair as the wasfond,

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This lusty wench he so allured with hope of marriage, that at length she yielded him her loue, and therewithall bent her whole study to worke his content: but in the end, she so much contented him, that it wrought altogether her owne discontent: to become high, she laid her selfe so low, that the knight suddenly fell ouer her, which fall became the rising of her belly. But when this wanton perceined her selfe to be with childe, she made her moan vnto the knight in this manner:

Oh Sir George, now is the time to performe your promise, or to make me a spectacle of insamy to the whole world for euer: in the one you shal discharge the duty of a true knight, but in the other shew your selfe a most periured person. Small honour will it be to boast in the spoyle of poore maidens, whose innocency all good knights ought much rather to defend. Why thou lewd paltry thing (quoth he) comest thou to satter thy bastard vpon me: Away ye dunghill carrion, away: Heare you good huswife, get you among your companions, and lay your litter where you list: for if you trouble me any moze, by heauen I sweare, thou shalt dearly abide it: and so bending his bowes like the angry god of war, he went his wayes, leauing the childe-breding wench to the hazard of her fortune, eyther good or bad.

The poore maiden seeing her selfe for her kindnesse thus cast off, shedde many teares of sorrow for her sinne, inuweighing, with many bitter groanes, against the vnconstancy of loue alluring men. But in the end, when she saw no other remedy, she made her case knowne vnto her mistresse: who after she had giuen her many bitter checks and taunts, threatening to turne her out of doores, she opened the matter to her husband.

So soone as he heard thereof, he made no moze to do, but presently passed to London after Sir George, & found him at my Lord Admiralls. What, master Winchcombe (quoth he) you are heartily welcome to London, and I thanke you  
for

## of Iacke of Newbery.

for my good chere. I pray you how doth your good wife, and all our friends in Barkshire: All well and merry, I thank you good Sir George, quoth he: I left them in health, and I hope they do so continue. And trust me sir (quoth he) hauing earnest occasion to come vp to talke with a bad debtor, in my iourney it was my chance to light in company of a gallant widow: a Gentlewoman she is, of wondrous good wealth, whom grieufully death hath bereft of a kinde husband, making her a widow, ere she had ben halfe a yere a wife: her lair, Sir George, is as well worth a hundred pound a yere as one pennny, being as faire and comely a creature, as any of her degre in our whole countrey: Now sir, this is the worst, by the reason that she doubts her selfe to be with childe, she hath vowed not to marry these twelue moneths: but because I wish you well, and the Gentlewoman no hurt, I came of purpose from my businesse to tell you thereof: Now Sir George, if you thinke her a fit wife for you, ride to her, wooe her, winne her, and wedde her. I thanke you good master Winchcombe (quoth he) for your fauour ever toward me, and gladly would I see this young widow if I wist wher. She dwelleth not halfe a mile from my house (quoth master Winchcombe) and I can send for her at any time if you please.

Sir George hearing this, thought it was not best to come there, fearing Ioue would sather a childe vpon him, and therefore answered, he had no leasure to come from my Lord: But, quoth he, would I might see her in London, on the condition it cost me twenty nobles. Tush sir George, quoth master Winchcombe, delayes in Ioue are dangerous, and he that will wooe a widow, must take time by the forelocke, and suffer none other to steppe before him, lest hee leape without the widowes Ioue. Notwithstanding, seeing now I haue told you of it, I will take my gelding and get me home: if I heare of her comming to London, I will send you word, or perhaps come my selfe: till when, adieu  
good



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good Sir George. Thus parted master Winchcombe from the Knight: and being come home, in short time he got a faire Taffety gowne, and a french hood for his maid, saying: Come ye drab, I must be saine to coner a foule fault with a faire garment, yet all will not hide your great belly: but if I finde meanes to make you a Lady, what will you say then: My Master (quoth she) I shall be bound while I live to pray for you. Come then minion (quoth her Mistresse) and put you on this gowne and french hood: for seeing you haue lien with a Knight, you must needs be a Gentlewoman. The maid did so: and being thus attyred, she was set on a faire Gelding, and a couple of men sent with her vp to London: and being well instructed by her master and dame what she should doe, she tooke her iourney to the City, in the Tearme time, and lodged at the Bell in the Strand: and mistresse Louelle must be her name, for so her master had warned her to call her selfe: neither did the men that waited on her, know the contrary; for master Winchcombe had borrowed them of their Master, to waite vpon a friend of his to London, because he could not spare any of his owne servants at that time: notwithstanding, they were appointed for the Gentlewomans credite, to say they were her owne men. This being done, master Winchcombe sent Sir George a letter, that the Gentlewoman which he told him of, was now in London, lying at the Bell in the Strand, hauing great busynesse at the Tearme.

With which newes Sir Georges heart was on fire, till such time as he might speake with her: thre or foure times went he thither, and still she would not be spoken withall, the which close keeping of her selfe, made him the more earnest in his suite.

At length he watcht her so narrowly, that finding her going forth in an euening, he followed her, her hauing one man before, and another behinde: carrying a very stately gate in the strate, it drew him into the greater King



## of lacke of Newbery.

king of her, being the more biged to utter his minde. And suddenly stepping befoze her, he then saluted her, Gentlewoman, God saue you, I haue often borne at your lodging, and could neuer finde you at leaseure. Why sir, quoth she (counterfeiting her naturall speech) haue you any businesse with me? Yes faire Widow, quoth he, as you are a ripent to the law, so am I a sutor; for your loue: and may I finde you so sauourable to let me pleade my owne case at the barre of your beauty, I doubt not but to unfold so true a tale, as I trust will cause you to giue sentence on my side. You are a merry Gentleman, quoth she: but for my owne part, I know you not; neuertheless, in a case of loue, I will be no let to your sute, though perhaps I helpe you little therein. And therefore Sir, if it please you to giue attendance at my lodging, vpon my returne from the Temple, you shall knowe more of my minde, and so they parted. Sir George receiuing hereby some hope of good happe, stayed for his deare at her lodging doore: whom at her comming she friendly greeted, saying, Surely Sir, your diligence is more than the profit you shall get thereby: but I pray you howe shall I call your name? George Rigley (quoth he) I am called, and for some small deserts I was knighted in France. Why then Sir George (quoth she) I haue done you too much wrong to make you thus dance attendance on my twentieth person. But let me be so bold to request you to tell me, howe you came to knowe me: for my owne part I cannot remember that euer I saw you befoze. Mistress Louclisse (said Sir George) I am well acquainted with a good neighbour of yours, called master Winchcombe, who is my very good friend, and to say the truth, you were commended vnto me by him. Truly sir George, said she, you are so much the better welcome: Neuertheless, I haue made a vowe not to loue any man for this twelue moneths space. And therefore Sir, till then I would wish you to trouble your selfe no further in this matter till

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that

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that time be expired : and then if I finde you be not entangled to any other, & that by triall I finde out the truth of your Ione, so: master Winchcombs sake your welcome shall be as good as any other Gentlemans what soeuer.

Sir George hauing receiued this answer, was wondrous woe, cursing the day that euer he meddled with Ione, whose time of deliuerance would come long before a twelue moneth were expired, to his vtter shame, and overthrow of his good fortune : for by that meanes should he haue Master Winchcombe his enemy, and therewithall the losse of this faire Gentlewoman. Wherefore to preuent this mischief, he sent a Letter in all haste to Master Winchcombe, requesting him most earnestly to come vp to London, by whose perswasion he hoped straight to finish the marriage. Master Winchcombe fulfilled his request, and then presently was the marriage solemnized at the Tower of London, in presence of many Gentlemen of Sir Georges friends. But when he found it was Ione whom he had gotten with childe, he fretted and fumed, stamp and star'd like a diuell. Why (quoth master Winchcombe) what needes all this : Came you to my table to make my maid your strumpet : had you no mans house to dishonour but mine : Sir, I would you should well know, that I account the poorest wench in my house too good to be your whore, were you ten knights : and seeing you take pleasure to make her your wanton, take it in no scorn to make her your wife : and ble her well too, or you shall heare of it. And hold thee Ione (quoth he) there is a hundred pounds for thee : And let him not say thou comest to him a begger. Sir George seeing this, and withall casting in his minde what friend Master Winchcombe might be to him, taking his wife by the hand, gaue her a louing kisse, and Master Winchcombe great thanks. Whereupon he willed him for two yeares space to take his dyet and his Ladies at his house : which the Knight accepting, rode straight with  
his

## of Iacke of Newbery.

his wife to Newberie. Then did the *Wiftris* make curtsie  
to the *Waid*, saying: You are welcome *Adam*, giuing her  
the vpper hand in all places. And thus they liued afterward  
in great ioy: and our King hearing how Iacke had matcht  
Sir George, laughing heartily thereat, gaue him a  
liuing for euer, the better to main-  
tain my Lady his wife.

FINIS.

